

The logo for the 2005 NCAA Final Four in St. Louis. It features a large, stylized number '1' that incorporates the Gateway Arch. The year '2005' is written vertically along the left side of the '1'. To the right of the '1', the text 'NCAA' is in black, 'FINAL' is in large red letters with a yellow outline, and 'FOUR' is in large red letters with a yellow outline, with a basketball replacing the letter 'O'. Below this, a blue banner with white text reads 'ST. LOUIS'.

Jennifer Lopez

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Yi Hoon-ki, president of the Korean Special Tourist Association, signs an agreement Monday with Camp Humphreys in Pyongtaek, South Korea, on behalf of bar owners pledging to help combat prostitution and human trafficking. Looking on is Army Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr., commander of the Area III Support Activity at Camp Humphreys.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Military

Air Force's Predator squadron: The Air Force plans to enlist the New York Air National Guard to operate one of its unmanned aerial vehicle squadrons, Gov. George Pataki announced Thursday.

It's part of an Air Force initiative that could expand the Predator program to as many as 15 squadrons by 2010.

Pataki's statement didn't disclose the location of New York's Predator station.

Navy sonar and whales: Sonar pulsing from a Navy guided-missile destroyer during training exercises near the San Juan Islands near Seattle two years ago was likely loud enough to send killer whales fleeing, according to a government agency report.

The National Marine Fisheries Service report backed up local experts who said sonar from the USS Shoup caused a group of orcas to avoid the sound.

AF Secretary resigns: In an expected move, the acting secretary of the Air Force announced his resignation Friday.

Peter B. Teets has held the position since January, when he replaced Secretary James Roche. Teets is also leaving his position as director of the National Reconnaissance Office, the Pentagon agency that operates spy satellites.

States

Holocaust families' treasures: A federal judge in Miami tentatively approved a \$25.5 million settlement of claims that U.S. troops plundered the riches of Hungarian Holocaust families from a Nazi train.

U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz called the participants "peacemakers" and said the settlement gives the government "the opportunity to step up to correct an injustice that may have occurred 60 years ago."

Detroit terror suspect: An immigrant who was once tried on terrorism charges in a case marred by prosecutorial misconduct plans to plead guilty next week to unrelated insurance fraud charges and be deported, his lawyer said.

Ahmed Hannan, 36, of Detroit is tired of fighting the legal system, defense lawyer James Thomas said Thursday.

Wisconsin hotel shooting: A man who fa-

tally shot seven fellow church members and then killed himself in a church meeting in a Brookfield, Wis., hotel had a history of depression and disagreed with his pastor, his mother told a medical examiner.

Shirley Ratzmann said her 44-year-old son, Terry Ratzmann, had a history of depression "relating to job problems for the last couple of years," but had not seen a doctor about it, a medical examiner's report released Thursday shows.

Immigrant smuggling deaths: Some of the charges against a truck driver accused in a deadly smuggling attempt could be dropped after a judge in Houston said prosecutors failed to show he was guilty of charges of harboring illegal immigrants.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore on Thursday stopped short of throwing out 19 charges against Tyrone Williams, but asked prosecutors and defense attorneys to submit arguments.

Yucca Mountain nuclear waste: E-mails from a government hydrologist to his supervisor, copied to several co-workers, led the Energy Department to believe that documents on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump might have been falsified, government officials said.

The documents concerned 6-year-old U.S. Geological Survey studies of water movement in the planned Nevada dump. USGS scientists validated Energy Department conclusions that water seepage was relatively slow, so radiation would be less likely to escape.

White House van threat: A man who threatened to blow up his van near the White House during inauguration week pleaded guilty Thursday to making a false explosives threat.

Lowell Timmers, 54, of Cedar Rapids, Mich., entered the plea in U.S. District Court as part of a deal for a reduced sentence, federal prosecutors said. District Judge Emmett G. Sullivan must still decide whether to accept the agreement for Timmers to serve two years and 10 months in prison. He will be sentenced June 30.

Timmers' threats brought traffic near the White House to a standstill for more than 4½ hours on Jan. 18.

Business

Immigrants at Wal-Mart: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, has agreed to pay \$11 million to settle federal allegations

it used hundreds of illegal immigrants to clean its stores, authorities said Friday.

Additionally, 12 businesses that provided contract janitor services to Wal-Mart will pay \$4 million in fines and plead guilty to criminal immigration charges, officials said. The case against Wal-Mart marks a record dollar amount for a civil immigration settlement, said Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia, director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

World

Bobby Fischer's citizenship: American chess genius Bobby Fischer, detained in Japan and awaiting deportation to the United States, cleared another hurdle Friday in his bid for Icelandic citizenship after a parliamentary committee granted initial approval.

The motion to grant Fischer citizenship will go before Iceland's 63-member parliament for final approval on Monday, said a member of the General Committee.

Fischer, 62, has been detained in Japan awaiting deportation to the United States.

Island disputes: The territorial dispute between South Korea and Japan over uninhabited islets in the Sea of Japan escalated Friday when a South Korean city council passed a resolution staking Seoul's claim to other islands controlled by its neighbor.

The move by the Masan city council came two days after a Japanese regional government asserted Tokyo's claims to the Korean-held outcroppings — called Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese.

Japan missile defense: Japan will use its future missile defense system to ward off an attack but not to shoot down missiles aimed at its allies, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Friday.

Japan and the United States are working on a joint defense program, spurred in part by North Korea's development of missiles capable of hitting Japan. But Koizumi told the upper house of Parliament that Japan would not be obligated to use the system to protect an allied country — such as the United States — from missile attack.

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\$2.3 billion short, AF loses to cut expenses

Base services may feel pinch as wing commanders in Pacific told to slow spending not essential to mission

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Wing commanders at Pacific Air Force bases have been told to curtail spending in nonmission-essential areas to help avoid an Air Force budget crisis in the face of mounting war-on-terrorism debt.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has directed all major commands to cut back on low-priority spending such as facilities, business operations, travel, administrative functions, non-deployment-related training and new contracts.

"These areas should be slowed significantly through the end of the fiscal year," Jumper told commanders in a March 1 message. The fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

"The services projects it will fall \$3 billion short in maintenance and operations and have a \$733 million shortfall in military personnel funding by the end of the fiscal year, Jumper said.

Some relief likely will be provided by the Bush administration's \$75 billion 2005 supplemental military funding bill, which awaits approval in Congress.

In the meantime, paying for the war on terrorism and the cost to rotate troops for base operations are to be the top two spending priorities, Jumper has ordered.

While combat training and readiness are to remain high priorities, Jumper has directed slowing those activities if necessary to pay for the top two priorities.

PACAF Vice Commander Lt. Gen. Kenneth Macgregor has requested that PACAF headquarters staff and wing commanders "look at their spending and see what areas they could reduce



Jumper

exact details on what may or may not get funded because we're still determining that. Once commanders in the field determine the best course of action, they'll work with PACAF and Air Force to determine the best way ahead."

Most public affairs officials at PACAF bases in Japan, Guam and South Korea have referred Stripes' queries about belt-tightening measures back to PACAF or provided written statements similar to PACAF's. Requests to interview wing commanders and base finance experts were denied.

"It is too early to discuss specifics, because we're still working with Pacific Air Forces to determine specific impacts of the slow down," said Col. Thurlow Crummett, 36th Mission Support Group commander, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in a written statement.

Likewise, Maj. Eric Hilliard, a

spending "in," according to Capt. David Faggard, a PACAF spokesman.

But Faggard, in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes, said PACAF was "not giving

5th Air Force spokesman, said the "bottom line is that they are asking commanders to 'slow down.'"

That slowdown already is being felt at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, where spending not deemed "mission essential" at dining services, mortuary affairs, fitness services and the child development centers will not be approved, said Bonnie Runge, 18th Services Squadron marketing director.

"Yes there is an impact for us in services ... AFF (appropriated fund dollars) is where the impact is hitting. (Nonappropriated funding) is continuing to generate revenue.

Service members and dependents who use Kadena's pool facilities may be facing a surcharge to help pay for life guards this summer, Runge said.

"Our commander has directed us all ... not to do any spending that we absolutely don't have to do."

Bonnie Runge

Marketing director, Kadena's 18th Services Squadron

er has directed us all ... not to do any spending that we absolutely don't have to do," Runge said. Temporary duty travel for conferences and other events also has been canceled, she said.

At Misawa Air Base, Japan, base officials are looking at cut-

Children swim in a 50-meter base swimming pool on Okinawa in August. Officials at Kadena Air Base say they may have to raise pool fees this year if base funds that normally pay for lifeguards are not available because of an Air Force-wide budget crunch.

ting back TDY expenditures, the number of rental cars used on TDY's and the number of people attending out-of-town meetings, said Capt. John Haynes, 35th Fighter Wing spokesman.

Kadena and Osan air bases in South Korea referred Stripes to PACAF public affairs officials in Hawaii.

Other Air Force commands already have begun prioritizing funds: Air Mobility Command, for example, is limiting facility projects to emergency work only and has slowed planned technology upgrades, according to an Air Force news release. AMC mobility flying operations, required depot maintenance and war-relat-

ed activities won't be affected, officials said.

In PACAF, wing commanders were forced to tighten their belts last year due to costs to support operations in Iraq and elsewhere. At Yokota Air Base near Tokyo, for example, renovation of a dormitory laundry facility was delayed, while at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, the 18th Wing considered parking its fleet of government vehicles and put off replacing aging heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units.

Erik Slavin, T.D. Flack, Franklin Fisher and Scott Schmeiser contributed to this story.

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Army bases in South Korea continue to feel budget crunch

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — From overflowing garbage piles to shortages of office supplies, U.S. Army bases throughout South Korea continue to feel the budget crunch created by the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One of the most important programs affected is the renovation of living quarters for soldiers in South Korea. Although some seven barracks renovation projects were stalled, all others have been put on hold, said John Nowell, spokesman for the Installation Management Agency, Korea Region Office in Seoul.

"If there are barracks that need renovations, they can't get it because of budget concerns," Nowell said. "We did get a break on seven of those barracks."

Vehicle maintenance is also affected. "Noncritical vehicles that go down for repair will have to wait for funding in order to buy repair parts," he said. "If we don't have the repair part in stock, then we'll have to wait until the repair part can be purchased."

But, Nowell added, "We're expecting approval of funding to come. We're just going to tighten our belts a bit."

Worldwide, the Installation Management Agency had reported a \$2 billion

shortfall in base funding. In documents obtained earlier this year by Stars and Stripes and verified by the command, 13 programs were targeted for worldwide cuts including an immediate hiring freeze, firing all temporary employees, weakening environmental standards and reducing contract support for force protection. More than half of that figure was directly attributed to funding the wars, officials said.

For the Army in southeastern South Korea, tight money means changes to public works, transportation and temporary travel, said Area IV spokesman Kevin Jackson.

"The Department of Public Works is responding to emergency work orders and mission-critical requirements only, until additional funding becomes available. Routine maintenance and upgrades will have to remain on the back burner for the time being," he said. Noncritical vehicles are restricted to a 100-mile radius to cut down on gas and mileage. Shuttle bus services have been spared, though.

But recreational programs, including base day trips, have been canceled.

"MWR has also stopped all inspections, assistance visits, conferences, training and all temporary duty requiring appropriate travel for TDY and overtime," Jackson said.

"Although troublesome and somewhat frustrating at this point in time, I see the funding challenges as short-lived and expect that we'll be back to normal operations in a few months," said Col. Donald J. Hendrix, Area IV commander.

"I'd ask that our constituents be patient as we work through this. We're all interested in ensuring that our deployed warfighters get what they need when they need it."

Camp Humphreys has also cut spending on office supplies and TDY travel, said Area III spokeswoman Susan Barkley. "There are some hiring things that have been kind of pushed back," she said. Last month, garbage started piling up near restaurants, offices and residences throughout Yongsan Garrison, the headquarters base in Seoul. The military's "landfill," the place where the trash and recyclables are separated, was full and there was no money to have it emptied, according to Area II commander Col. Timothy McNulty.

Area II also ran out of money to help with local news. Funds for a federal tuition assistance program also dried up, according to military leaders here.

By the second week in March, McNulty freed up enough money to start regular garbage pickup again. He also said during a March 9 interview that he was planning

to have enough money to support youth sports leagues and summer jobs for teens.

But he cautioned servicemembers and their families to be ready for bad news. "As of March 9, we can still provide services," McNulty said. "But things [can] change."

No cuts for Okinawa Marines

At Marine Corps bases in Okinawa, officials say no budget cuts have been enacted. But they face a different problem. Because thousands from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit spent months in Iraq, base services have lost a significant part of their customer base.

That, in turn, resulted in reduced hours. Fewer people at gyms, for example, meant less need for staff to run the place.

"We've felt it primarily in the northern camps," Ben Erickson, chief marketing officer for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"Fewer people are using the clubs, the gym. And so what we've done is keep the core primary services, but change the operating hours."

"We haven't laid anyone off. We have been able to preserve our services. For the most part, the families are still here and life goes on."

David Allen, Franklin Fisher and Teri Weaver contributed to this report.

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Bars in S. Korea pledge to fight prostitution

BY FRANKLIN FISHER

Stars and Stripes

PYONGTAEK, South Korea — Bar owners outside Camp Humphreys in South Korea have pledged for the first time in writing to keep prostitution and human trafficking out of their establishments, and to blow the whistle on those who do not.

Memorandums of understanding were signed March 14 by Army Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr., commander of the Area III Support Activity at Camp Humphreys, and the heads of two associations representing local bar owners — the Korean Special Tourist Association and the Anjung-ni Entertainment Establishments Association.

The two associations represent a total of about 50 off-post establishments outside the post, Taliento said.

The Defense Department and U.S. Forces Korea forbid military members from involvement in prostitution and human trafficking, and the U.S. military's recent

The agreement

The bar owners agreed, among other provisions, to:

- Specifically identify "businesses that support, harbor or sanction prostitution or human trafficking."
- Ban "limitations placed on" employees' "personal freedoms."
- Ban keeping of employees' passports from them: "No employee shall have her passport seized or kept from her, but shall keep her passport in her own possession."
- Ban coercing employees "into engaging in activities resembling prostitution."
- Ban employees from "soliciting or propositioning patrons for sex."
- Ban use of private rooms "for one-on-one services between employees and patrons."
- Ban the paying of money "to obtain the company or companionship of an employee." The payments are widely known as "bar fines" or "special fees."

— Franklin Fisher

efforts to counter it — including stepped-up military law-enforcement patrols of bar districts, accompanied by South Korean police — have been well-publicized.

But for the Army in the Pyong-

taek region, the memorandums of understanding mark the first written agreements between Camp Humphreys and local bar owners on such matters, said Clarence F. Slawson, Taliento's deputy.

They put the bar owners on record as committing themselves and their employees to shutting prostitution and human trafficking within their own merchant community.

And the agreements warn that

those making the inspections could include Army military police officers, "courtesy patrols," and agents of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, Taliento said.

Businesses "known to engage in illegal activities that support or sanction prostitution and human trafficking" will be declared off-limits to U.S. military personnel by the Area III Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board, the documents say.

Taliento is looking to the associations' leadership to investigate any allegations that may arise against member establishments.

"If I get a report that it's happened, and we investigate it, I'm expecting them to investigate it as well," he said.

But he's also looking to soldiers to avoid actions that support prostitution or human trafficking, he said.

"This has to be a constant campaign of awareness and command presence, and I think it's going to be successful. Because we are going back to the focus ... that this is all part of the warrior ethos. This is all part of the Army values, and that we're appealing to the individual soldiers' dignity, their honor and personal respect, encouraging them to do the right thing, to say 'No' to prostitution and report it, not support it."

E-mail Franklin Fisher at: fisherf@pstripes.osd.mil

"This has to be a constant campaign of awareness and command presence, and I think it's going to be successful. Because we are going back to the focus ... that this is all part of the warrior ethos."

Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr.
Commander, Area III Support
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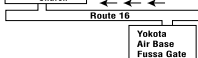
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'America, you have a recruiting problem'

Army vice chief of staff says he's worried about the future of all-volunteer military force

By Jon R. Anderson

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's vice chief of staff says the Army is losing sleep lately over the future of the all-volunteer force.

"What keeps me awake at night is what this all-volunteer force will look like in 2007," Gen. Richard Cody told lawmakers recently on Capitol Hill. It's a concern others should share, he says.

"I think it ought to keep all of you awake," he told reporters Wednesday.

Nearly 31 years since it replaced the draft Army of both world wars, Korea and Vietnam, the all-volunteer force is facing its first real test, Cody said.

"This is the first time we've taken the all-volunteer force into an extended fight," Cody said. "It's not a Kosovo, it's not a Bosnia, it's not a Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping mission in the Sinai," he said. "It is a war. On any given day, we have 156,000 soldiers for 12 months in a combat zone, as well as — still — all those other commitments."

It's a pace that could be crippling, he said.

"I worry about the soldiers with their sec-

ond and third tour by '07 since 9/11," Cody said.

Indeed, for the first time since Vietnam, the sheer volume of operations means even relatively junior troops are already becoming veterans of multiple combat tours. Soldiers who served as privates in the 3rd Infantry Division as it invaded Iraq, for example, are now returning to Iraq as corporals and sergeants.

The all-volunteer force was born on July 1, 1973, in the wake of years of protest against the draft during the war in Vietnam. Ever since, the Army has traded orders to serve for "Be all you can be," and, more recently, "Army of One" advertising campaigns to convince young Americans to raise their right hands and wear the uniform.

But two years into the war in Iraq, recruiting efforts are beginning to show cracks.

For the first two months of the year, both Army and Marine Corps recruiters have failed to meet their quotas to sign up new volunteers.

Selling service

"That, correctly so, is a concern," Gen. Peter Pace, the vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff told Pentagon employees Friday during a town hall meeting.

While he said more recruiters and advertising dollars are being thrown into the mix to help tilt the balance, Pace encouraged everyone in uniform to help in the effort.

"All of us should be talking about the value of service to country," Pace said.

"Not just about military service to country, but about young folks finding a niche in this society where they can serve the country for some time, in my mind, pay back a little bit what they've gotten from this country."

Cody agrees. And he calls for convincing young folks is what he calls the "influencers."

"We're seeing right now mothers and fathers and school teachers and other influencers that maybe are not talking about service to this nation," Cody said. "So, when you say, 'Army, you have a recruiting problem,' I say, 'America, you have a recruiting problem.'"

In the end, says Cody, it comes down to simple questions like, "What kind of Army do you want to have? Is service to this country important to you?"

Stretching the force

For those already in uniform, Cody said the Army must do a better job of providing good housing and basic quality of life, especially as the service adds 30,000 soldiers to its active ranks and 70,000 troops now forward-based in Europe and Asia are repositioned back to the United States.

"The net result is going to have 100,000 more soldiers back in the continental United States on the active side," said Cody, adding that existing bases will have to be expanded to handle the influx.

This comes, he said, even as the Army has had to mortgage base maintenance accounts to help fund the war in Iraq.

The Army he said has cut base funding

by 30 percent. Four weeks ago, however, Army leaders decided to tighten their belt in other areas and have come up with about \$3 billion to reduce the base maintenance shortfall to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the basic tools of the trade have taken a beating as well.

Cody said the Army has lost 79 aircraft, three companies worth of tanks, and three companies worth Bradley Fighting Vehicles over the past three and half years of non-stop combat that began with the invasion of Afghanistan.

"This fight," Cody said, "has taken a toll."

If left unchecked, he said, that toll could have dire consequences.

Close to breaking

Some corners of Congress have already been calling for a draft for more than a year now.

New York Rep. Charles Rangel, a Democrat, introduced legislation last year calling for exactly that. Although his bill made no headway, the issue continues to receive debate as the war in Iraq drags on.

"The all-volunteer force is close to breaking right now," said retired Maj. Gen. Edward Atkeson, now a prolific author on military affairs and a senior fellow at the Institute of Land Warfare. "When it does break, that's when you'll see the draft come back."

Email Jon R. Anderson at: andersonj@stripes.com or dsml



Cody

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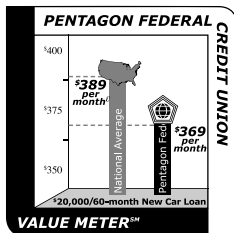
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Report: Groups plan underwater attacks

Philippine military details terrorist's scuba training

BY JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Two of the most dangerous al-Qaida-linked groups in Southeast Asia are working together to train militants in scuba diving for seaborne terror attacks, according to the interrogation of a recently captured guerrilla.

The ominous development is outlined in a Philippine military report obtained Thursday by The Associated Press that also notes increasing collaboration among the Muslim militants in other areas, including financing and explosives, as extremists plot new ways to strike.

In the past year, the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah has given Abu Sayyaf militants in the Philippines at least \$18,500 for explosives training, the report said.

The report comes a month after the U.S. Coast Guard announced it is seeking to better protect the nation's ports from terrorist attacks by scuba divers by developing a sonar system that can distinguish human swimmers from dolphins.

Concerns about terrorist strikes by scuba divers were raised three years ago after the FBI announced it was investigating whether al-Qaida operatives took scuba training to help blow up ships at anchor, power plants, bridges, depots or other waterfront targets.

Authorities fear scuba divers could target ships with more accuracy than a small explosive-laden boat like the one used in the USS Cole blast that killed 17 sailors in 2000 in Yemen.

According to the Philippine report, an Abu Sayyaf suspect in a deadly bus bombing in Manila on Feb. 14 — Gamal Baharan — described how he and other seasoned guerrillas took scuba diving lessons as part of a plot for an attack at sea.

Abu Sayyaf leaders Khaddafy Janjalani and Abu Sulaiman initiated the training, Baharan said, adding that Janjalani claimed to speak directly with al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden via satellite phone.

Authorities couldn't verify any such conversations and said Janjalani may have been boasting, ac-

cording to Philippine military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Baharan, 35, said he was told in October to undergo the scuba training in southwestern Palawan province, where he periodically received cell phone messages from Janjalani and Sulaiman "asking him how many fathoms he would be able to dive," the report said.

The training was in preparation for a Jemaah Islamiyah bombing plot on unspecified targets outside the Philippines that require "underwater operation," Baharan is quoted as saying.

Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for a string of attacks in Southeast Asia starting in 1999. Major strikes include the Aug. 5, 2003, bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, which killed 12 people, and the Oct. 12, 2002, bombings on Bali island that killed 202, mostly foreign tourists.

Abu Sayyaf is known more for its kidnap-for-ransom schemes — including many involving Americans and Western tourists — and conducting deadly raids against



A military policeman guards bombing suspect Gamal Baharan at the Armed Forces headquarters north of Manila on Feb. 22. According to a Philippine military report, Baharan, an Abu Sayyaf suspect in a deadly bus bombing in Manila on Feb. 14, described how he and other guerrillas took scuba diving lessons as part of a plot for underwater attacks.

AP

Christian towns.

More recently, Abu Sayyaf has been accused of more spectacular explosive attacks, including the almost simultaneous bombings in Manila and two southern cities Feb. 14 that killed eight people and wounded more than 100. Those attacks came a year after a

bomb blew up on a ferry in Manila Bay, killing 116 people in the Philippine's worst terrorist strike.

Although the Abu Sayyaf's ranks have been largely depleted by U.S.-backed military assaults, the government still considers the group a major threat.

Saudis given ex-terror suspect in Philippines

BY TERESA CERONJANO

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A Saudi Arabian man, detained for suspected al-Qaida links after arriving at Manila's airport, was turned over to the Saudi ambassador on Friday after investigators failed to find any evidence against him, Philippine immigration officials said.

The man, identified by the officials as Abdullah Nassar al-Arifi, 34, appears on an FBI list of terror suspects, the officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

He was detained shortly after arriving on a Philippine Airlines flight from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on Wednesday, the officials said.

"His name and date of birth jived with the list," Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez told DZMM radio.

The officials said earlier the man may have links to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, as well as the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia.

But an investigation — which the officials said included the FBI — failed to link him to terrorism, and al-Arifi was turned over to the Saudi ambassador on Friday, said an immigration intelligence official who declined to be identified.

The official said al-Arifi would still be deported to Saudi Arabia because his name was on the U.S. list.

Syrian arrested in Spain

MADRID, Spain — Spanish police on Friday arrested a Syrian in Madrid who they believe helped recruit radical Islamists to be sent abroad and had ties with suspects charged in the Madrid train bombings of a year ago.

Police gave the suspect's name as Mohammad Allamallah Dabas; he was arrested at his home in Madrid as part of the investigation being carried out by the National Court. The Interior Ministry said he and his brother used an apartment in Madrid to house recruits or people passing through.

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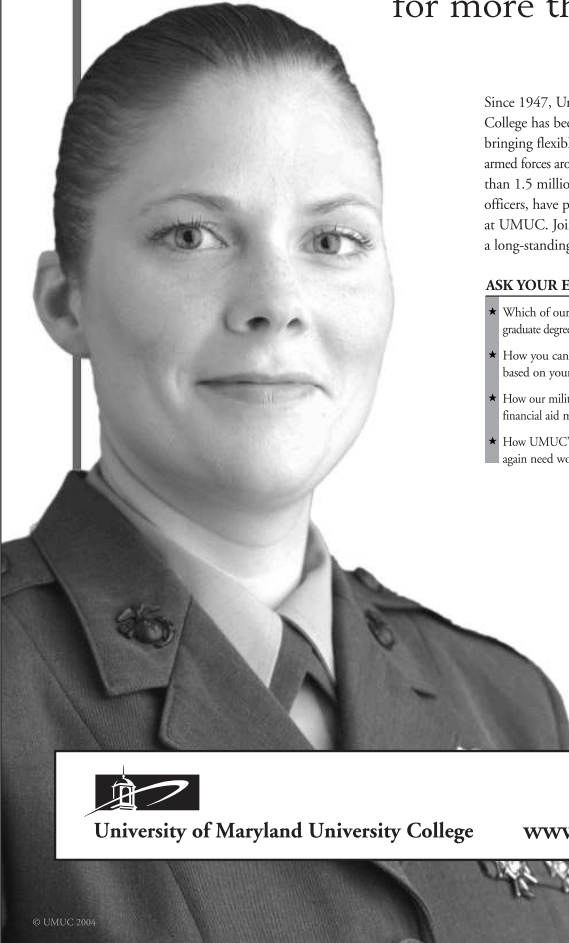
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Doctors remove Schiavo's feeding tube

Congress subpoenas brain-damaged Fla. woman in attempt to keep her alive



A Florida Circuit Court judge ordered the removal of a feeding tube for Terri Schiavo, right, pictured above with her mother, Mary Schindler, in 2001.

BY MITCH STACY
The Associated Press

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — Doctors removed Terri Schiavo's feeding tube Friday despite an extraordinary, last-minute push by Republicans in Capitol Hill to use the subpoena powers of Congress to keep the severely brain-damaged woman alive.

It is expected that it will take one to two weeks for Schiavo to die, provided no one intercedes and gets the tube reinserted. The Schiavo family confirmed the tube had been removed in a statement on their Web site.

The removal came amid a flurry of maneuvering by Schiavo's parents, state lawmakers and Congress to keep her alive. Committees in the Republican-controlled Congress issued subpoenas for Schiavo, her husband and her caregivers,

demanding that they appear at hearings on March 25 and March 28.

But the judge presiding over the case later refused a request from House attorneys to delay the removal, which he had previously ordered to take place at 1 p.m. EST.

"I have had no cogent reason why the [congressional] committee should intervene," Circuit Judge George Greer told attorneys in a conference call, adding that last-minute action by Congress does not invalidate years of court rulings.

The tube's removal signals that an end may be near in a decade-long family feud between Schiavo's husband and her devoutly Roman Catholic parents, Bob and Mary Schindler. The parents have been trying to oust Michael Schiavo as their daughter's guardian and keep in place the tube that has kept her alive for more than 15 years.

The tube has twice been removed in the past, but was reinserted within days in both cases.

Michael Schiavo says his wife told him she would not want to be kept alive artificially. Her parents dispute that, saying she could get better and that their daughter has laughed, cried, smiled and responded to their voices. Court-appointed physicians testified her brain damage was so severe that there was no hope she would ever have any cognitive abilities.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, told reporters in Washington earlier Friday that removal of the tube amounted to "barbarism."

But Rep. Henry Waxman of California, senior Democrat on the Government Reform Committee, called the subpoena a "flagrant abuse of power" and amounted to Congress dictating the medical care Terri Schiavo should receive.

Schieffer confirmed

WASHINGTON — The Senate has confirmed businessman Tom Schieffer of Fort Worth, Texas, as U.S. ambassador to Japan.

Schieffer's unanimous confirmation was made late Thursday.

Schieffer has served as U.S. ambassador to Australia since 2001. The former president of the Texas Rangers is the brother of longtime journalist Bob Schieffer, who is interim anchor of the "CBS Evening News" and moderator of "Face the Nation."

Archdiocese loses at trial

SAN FRANCISCO — The Archdiocese of San Francisco knew or should have known that one of its priests was molesting boys during the 1970s, a jury decided Friday in a landmark case. The jury will now decide how much to award the victim.

By a 10-2 vote, jurors decided in favor of 47-year-old Dennis Kavanaugh, who had sued the archdiocese, alleging that the late Rev. Joseph Pritchard had molested him during the early 1970s. Kavanaugh's was the first of more than 750 lawsuits against Roman Catholic dioceses in California to go to trial since California temporarily lifted the statute of limitations for filing sex-abuse claims in 2002.

Clinton aide chides Kerry

ALBANY, N.Y. — A top adviser to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton thinks fellow Democrat John Kerry "ran what was basically an inconsistent campaign" for president last year, according to a published report.

Clinton, who represents New York in the Senate, and Kerry, who represents Massachusetts, are considered potential rivals for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

The Kerry campaign had "a different message every two or three weeks," Ann Lewis, director of communications for Clinton's political action committee, said in Friday's issue of the *Forward*, a Jewish weekly published in New York City.

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Study: Abstinence pledge spurs risky behavior

By MATT APUZZO

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Teens who pledge to remain virgins until marriage are more likely to take chances with other kinds of sex that increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, a study of 12,000 adolescents suggests.

The report by Yale and Columbia University researchers could help explain their earlier findings that teens who pledged abstinence are just as likely to

have STDs as their peers.

The latest study, published in the April issue of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, found that teens pledging virginity until marriage are more likely to have oral and anal sex than other teens who have not had intercourse. That behavior, however, "puts you at risk," said Hannah Brueckner, assistant professor of sociology at Yale and one of the study's authors.

Among virgins, boys who have pledged abstinence were four times more likely to have had anal sex, according to the study.

Overall, pledges were six times more likely to have oral sex than teens who have remained abstinent but not as part of a pledge.

The pledging group was also less likely to use condoms during their first sexual experience or get tested for STDs, the researchers found.

Data for the study were taken from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. An in-school questionnaire was given to a nationally representative sample of students in grades 7-12 and fol-

lowed up with a series of in-home interviews roughly one, two and six years later. It was funded in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Millions of teens have signed written pledges or verbally promised to abstain from sex, part of a church-led effort to discourage premarital sex and the spread of disease. President Bush has boosted funding for abstinence-only education in schools.

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More Web photos of VMI cadets cause stir

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Va. — Virginia Military Institute is investigating several cadets who appear in "inappropriate" photographs on a Web site, just two weeks after the school punished another group of cadets for dressing up as Nazis and drag queens.

The latest photographs, which show a cadet bound with tape being harassed by other cadets, appear on the same Web site that previously displayed photos of cadets at a Halloween event dressed as Nazis, drag queens and a starving African.

Two weeks ago, 12 cadets involved in the Halloween photographs received punishments ranging from confinement to their barracks to writing essays.

The latest photos appeared this week on the site under the headline, "VMI Hazing Photos Surface."

VMI spokesman Stewart MacInnis said initial inquiries determined the new photos were not a result of hazing, but a common practice at VMI. The bound cadet was celebrating his 19th birthday, and the others who appear in the photographs are his friends, MacInnis said.

"The behavior is definitely inappropriate," MacInnis said, but added the bound cadet told him the published photographs did not include pictures showing him laughing and smiling. No one was injured in the incident.

VMI officials learned about the pictures Tuesday when a newspaper reporter called the school about them.

Administrators at VMI are aware that these birthday celebrations are popular at the school, but discourage the behavior, MacInnis said.

The pictures were taken Oct. 28 — three days before the Halloween photos were shot, MacInnis said.

"There's a good bit of frustration about the entire situation," MacInnis said. "We think this has all been addressed in a continuing manner and will be addressed with civility training and that type of thing."

Muslim woman leads coed prayer

BY TAREK EL-TABLAZY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A female professor led an Islamic prayer service Friday with men in the congregation despite sharp criticism from Muslim religious leaders in the Middle East who complained that it violated centuries of tradition.

Amina Wadud, a professor of Islamic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, led the service at Synod House at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, an Episcopal church in Manhattan.

Some Islamic scholars have said they were aware of a few other mixed-gender prayer meetings led by women, mostly in the West, but they are rare.

"The issue of gender equality is a very important one in Islam, and Muslims have unfortunately held highly restrictive interpretations of history to move backward," Wadud said before the service. "With this prayer service we are moving forward. This single act is symbolic of the possibilities within Islam."

About 80 to 100 people attended the service, and the group appeared evenly divided between men and women. Most women wore the traditional Muslim headscarf and long, flowing robes.

The event was meant to draw attention to the inequality for women in Muslim spiritual life and Muslim life in general, said Asra Q. Noman, an author and former Wall Street Journal reporter who is the lead organizer of the prayer.

"We are standing up for our rights as women in Islam. We will no longer accept the back door or the shadows," Noman said. "At the end of the day, we'll be leaders in the Muslim world."

There was a brief outburst from some protesters outside the building at the start of the service, but they were kept from entering by a heavy police presence. One young U.S.-born, bearded activist, who only gave his name as Nussrah, said Wadud was not representative of Muslims.

"She is tarnishing the whole Islamic faith," he said.

Some critics have accused Noman of

using the event to publicize a book she has written about women and Islam.

Three New York mosques had refused to host the service, Noman said. It was moved to Synod House after a site that had earlier been selected for the service, an art gallery, received a bomb threat.

The call to prayer was led by an American Muslim of Egyptian descent, Sushyla al-Attar, who spoke in accented Arabic and didn't wear the traditional headscarf.

Organizers said the service wasn't meant as a protest against Muslim traditions. "It was always meant as a spiritual worship opportunity, and it's doing so in an equal space for women and men," said Ahmed Nassef, whose group Muslim Wake-Up! helped to organize the service.

"It's not about telling other Muslims how they should worship," Nassef said. "We just need to be open to new ideas."

Abdul-Aziz al-Khayyat, a former minister of religious affairs in Jordan and a Muslim cleric, also said the service would be forbidden under Islamic doctrine, and that the prayers of men who participated would not count.



Amina Wadud, a professor of Islamic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, leads a prayer service in New York on Friday.

Brainy choice for NASA chief may be tailor-made for job

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The brainy rocket scientist nominated by President Bush and endorsed by key members of Congress to lead NASA as it shifts from space shuttles to moonships seems to have it all and know it all.

But Michael Griffin will need every one of his seven degrees plus political savvy to take on the monumental challenges ahead of him. Getting NASA out of the shuttle business and back into hands-on lunar exploration will clearly be his biggest task.

Already, NASA has told its employees that thousands of jobs may be cut, many of them in aeronautics, in a streamlining effort to achieve the president's exploration vision. What's more, Congress has been tepid toward Bush's moon-Mars plan and questions whether it is affordable and practical, given the war on terrorism and huge federal deficits.

"Dr. Griffin will need to be bold, decisive and forceful within the agency and a convincing communicator on Capitol Hill," said the Space Foundation, a nonprofit organization advancing space endeavors. While the foundation has been laid, "Much of the difficult job of transforming NASA remains ahead. Rice bowls need to be smashed, walls torn down, finances put in order."

Griffin, head of the space department at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, has a doctorate in aerospace engineering, five master's degrees in engineering, physics and business administration, and a bachelor's degree in physics.

He's a certified flight instructor who has experience in civil,

military and commercial space, as well as with high-tech programs for the CIA. He headed research for the Strategic Defense



Griffin

Mars rovers early in his career, and helped spearhead the first President Bush's moon-Mars initiative, a short-lived affair.

All this, and Griffin is only 55. It's enough to make mere mortals dizzy and space enthusiasts giddy.

"If he doesn't have what it takes, I can't imagine who does," said Neil deGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Tyson was part of a nine-member presidential commission considering Bush's goal of returning astronauts to the moon by 2020 and ultimately opening up the solar system to human travel.

"If you look at his pedigree, he has hit almost every high point that NASA needs right now to implement and execute this vision," Tyson said. "You roll all this up into the same person, you've hit the jackpot."

The Senate must confirm Griffin's nomination as NASA's 11th administrator, and that appears likely. Griffin has declined interviews until he is confirmed.



Students from Pittsburgh's creative and performing arts high school perform a theatrical dance in honor of pop artist Andy Warhol as part of a ceremony Friday to change the name of Pittsburgh's Seventh Street Bridge to the Andy Warhol Bridge.

Pittsburgh's Seventh Street Bridge renamed in honor of Andy Warhol

BY MIKE CRISSEY
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — His work spanned from prints to posters to magazines to movies to a nightclub and even shoes. He linked pop culture, business and art. How appropriate that Andy Warhol would get a bridge.

Ten years after a museum bearing his name opened in Pittsburgh, the city's Seventh Street Bridge which leads to the museum was to be officially renamed the "Andy Warhol Bridge" on Friday.

A bridge honoring Warhol could signal an acceptance of sorts by the sometimes staid Steel City, which hasn't embraced its perhaps best-known resident — famous for his Campbell's soup cans and silkscreens of Marilyn Monroe but who also made experimental films of people sleeping and eating and so-called exploitation films like "The Nude Restaurant."

Besides the culture clash, some also didn't think the city should celebrate a celebrity who apparently concealed his roots.

Warhol was born in the city in 1928 and went to school in Pittsburgh before moving to New York to become a commercial artist.

He seldom came back and often said, "I am from nowhere."

"What really hurts was he was criticized for not coming to Pittsburgh. He came back a couple of times but there was nothing for him to be coming back and forth like that," said John Warhol, 79, of McCandless, his older brother. "I don't know where the rumor came out that Andy didn't like Pittsburgh."

Warhol said a bridge honoring his brother, who died in 1987 at 52 of complications from gall bladder surgery, was overdue but appreciated. He planned to attend the renaming with his three sons and grandson.

The bridge is the second of the city's so-called "three sisters" bridges over the Allegheny River to be renamed — the first was the former Sixth Street Bridge named for former Pittsburgh Pirate Robert Clemente.

Although the bridge will be named in honor of the artist, known for his use of shocking colors, Sokolowski said there are no plans to make it an architectural art piece.

"Just because it bears Warhol's name, that doesn't mean it needs to have a zoot suit," Sokolowski said. The only changes to the bridge are blown-up images of a postage stamp honoring Warhol.



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Educators disagree why boys lag in reading

BY VALERIE STRAUSS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Jerilyn Hoffman couldn't get her young son to read much until she found a book that wasn't her cup of tea but definitely was his. "The Day My Butt Went Psycho."

Sharon Grover had a different problem: Her son loved books

early in elementary school but mysteriously lost interest at about third grade, declaring: "My mother is a librarian, but I hate to read." He did, however, start reading again for pleasure — in his 20s.

Enticing boys to read — and to keep reading — is the flip side of the sometimes fierce debate about girls' and their math and science abilities, and both issues are

receiving new attention as educators focus on how boys and girls learn differently.

The controversy about gender and learning was stoked anew last week by Harvard University President Larry Summers recently questioned girls' intrinsic abilities in math and science. Then first lady Laura Bush spoke about her new effort to help boys, who she said are falling dangerously behind girls in such areas as literacy.

Some educators have said that the concern over boys is exaggerated and that boys end up doing just fine, holding top jobs and being paid higher average salaries than women. Others, however, have said boys face an unprecedented literacy crisis that limits their opportunities, citing studies showing that the gap between the sexes — dating back to the 19th century — has increased markedly.

"Part of it is sociological and part of it is sociological, but boys are definitely drifting down," said Jon Scieszka, author of the "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales," and founder of the Web site www.guys-read.com, which is aimed at helping interest boys in reading. "We've been testing kids in America for the last 25 years and finding out that boys are doing worse than girls," he said. "But we don't know enough to change that."

Exactly what we don't know, however, is unclear, because there is no consensus on how much genetics, environment and culture are responsible for the gap.

And it is not strictly a U.S. phenomenon: Stephen Goward, education professor at the University of York in England, reviewed scores for 22 countries and discovered gaps in every one, despite differences in school setups and curricula.

What is known is that boys generally take longer to learn to read than girls; they read less and are less enthusiastic about it; and they have more trouble understanding narrative texts yet are better at absorbing informational texts.

Those findings are from a literacy study done in 2002. "Reading Don't Fix No Chevys," by Michael W. Smith, a Temple University professor, and Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, Boise State University English education professor.

Scientists have said that boys are born with smaller language centers in their brains — and larger space centers — than girls and that boys develop language abilities at a slower rate, though eventually they catch up.

Girls generally learn to read and understand language sooner than boys, which helps to explain why early remedial reading classes are most often heavily populated with boys, teachers say.

The new push to have children learn key skills earlier — reading in kindergarten and first grade, for instance — works against boys, some educators say.

Most teachers are not schooled in dealing with children's biological differences, experts say.

Study shows college students watch nearly 4 hours TV daily

BY DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Classes? What classes? A study reveals that college students watch an average of three hours, 41 minutes of television each day.

Viewing peaks in the late-night hours for college males, interrupting any cramming for exams, according to a report by Nielsen Media Research, the primary service for measuring TV audiences.

"It was a little more than I expected it to be," said Pat McDonough, Nielsen's senior vice president of planning, policy and analysis.

But, it's less, by about an hour, than the amount of time an average American spends watching TV each day, Nielsen said.

College viewing was something of a final frontier for Nielsen.

The company has been able to track the TV habits of college-age men and women when they're living at home, but until last fall had no reliable measurement of what students were watching in their dorms, fraternities or sororities, or college apartments.

TV networks are eager to see this information. Young people, particularly young men, represent a demographic for which some advertisers will pay a pre-

mium, and Nielsen's data can prove whether a show draws this audience.

For college men, the 10 most-watched programs last October were all baseball games, primarily postseason games involving the Boston Red Sox as the team marched to its first World Series championship in 86 years. For college women, their favorite show in October was NBC's "Joey," Nielsen said. The women also liked ABC's short-lived "Life As We Know It," set in a high school.

In an era when many people watch television alone, it was different in dorms: a large amount of college students watch with their roommates and others, meaning they have to negotiate over which programs to tune in, Nielsen said.

By almost 2-to-1, college students watched more shows on cable than on broadcast television. It's much closer among the audience as a whole.

The study found college viewership peaked in September and was at its lowest in December. That's counter to the general trend of TV viewership picking up in the colder months. It may reflect students spending more time studying for exams, or be simply explained by students going home for the holidays, McDonough said.



How to encourage reading

BY VALERIE STRAUSS

The Washington Post

Sharon Grover, who is the youth services selections specialist at Arlington (Va.) Public Library, is responsible for choosing books for children from infancy through high school. She spoke about young people and reading.

Q When you choose books, do you think of the audience you are trying to reach in terms of gender?

A I make decisions based on who the audience will be, but I truly don't think. "Oh, I've already bought 10 books for girls, so I need to buy 10 books for boys."

Q You've said your own son stopped reading in the middle of elementary school. What did you do that made him stop?

A What we did when he stopped reading was to back off... I just shut up. But I had friends that he really liked who asked him to read things and would suggest things they loved. He would, of course, take their word over anything his mother would say.

Q So parents pushing their kids isn't the way to go?

A No, no, it doesn't usually work... Another thing we did was to start to listen to audio books. I started listening to be a reviewer. Then, when we were in the car, my son would listen, too, but he would pretend that he wasn't at all interested.

Q What does that do for kids who don't want to read?

A Parents think it is the easy way out. We hear all the time, "Isn't it cheating?" But the research shows it is not cheating at all. It is not only good for struggling readers and English-language learners, it is also good for accomplished readers.

Q Why?

A There is a lot of research on the efficacy of listening in terms of learning reading skills. It builds vocabulary, it models fluency and proper pronunciation. It improves comprehension, especially for auditory learners... In fact, in Arlington, the English and language arts departments (at the public schools) have started to allow some kids to fulfill their reading assignments.

Q You must like to see children read great books. How do you define literature?

A It's the writing. Is it formulaic? Really predictable? Does it have something in there that makes you think of something other than the obvious. But there is nothing wrong with the stuff that is not literature, either. It can be really helpful for children to read books with a formula.

If you can't get the process down, you can't read fluently. That takes you back to books with formulas. They help kids gain confidence they need to become fluent. You want to encourage all kinds of reading.

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Top 'Movie Stars' list gets mixed reviews

Premiere's ranking of the '50 Greatest' gives nods to current and classic actors

BY TAMER EL-GHOBASHY
AND BILL HUTCHINSON

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A magazine's list of the "50 Greatest Movie Stars" is getting more jeers than cheers from film lovers flabbergasted that Tom Cruise outranks John Wayne and Marlon Brando.

Premiere magazine's editors spent two years painstakingly crafting the royal roster that puts Cruise at No. 3, behind only Marilyn Monroe and list-topper Cary Grant. Another head-scratcher was Julia

Roberts, who cracked the top 10 at No. 7, while four-time Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn came in No. 14.

"Julia Roberts shouldn't even



Paul Newman

make the list yet," said Mark Groblowski, 51, a construction director from Long Island. "You have to put in a lot of work to get there."

Jessica Faurie, 25, of Manhattan said Cruise doesn't rank on her personal list of top-shelf film stars. "There are many actors who are better than him," said the medical secretary.

But Premiere senior editor Glenn Kenny said Cruise earned his spot on the list, one notch above John Wayne, because he's "the biggest contemporary movie star in the last 20 years." Cruise is so big with the magazine's editors that they put his picture on the cover of the April issue.

Roberts, who won an Academy

Premiere's list of '50 Greatest Movie Stars'

1. Cary Grant
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. Tom Cruise
4. John Wayne
5. Ingrid Bergman
6. Paul Newman
7. Julia Roberts
8. Greta Garbo
9. James Stewart
10. Henry Fonda
11. James Cagney
12. Grace Kelly
13. Humphrey Bogart
14. Katharine Hepburn
15. Marlon Brando
16. Jack Nicholson
17. Robert Redford

18. Audrey Hepburn
19. Spencer Tracy
20. Sidney Poitier
21. Clark Gable
22. Judy Garland
23. Fred Astaire
24. Doris Day
25. Bette Davis
26. Errol Flynn
27. Gregory Peck
28. Tom Hanks
29. Warren Beatty
30. James Dean
31. Steve McQueen
32. Jane Fonda
33. Shirley Temple

34. Rita Hayworth
35. Harrison Ford
36. Sean Connery
37. Al Pacino
38. Robert De Niro
39. Denzel Washington
40. Elizabeth Taylor
41. Peter Sellers
42. Gary Cooper
43. Clint Eastwood
44. Will Smith
45. Jack Lemmon
46. Meryl Streep
47. Johnny Depp
48. Nicole Kidman
49. Russell Crowe
50. Brad Pitt

—KRT

Award in 2000 for her portrayal of crusading environmentalist Erin Brockovich, earned her high spot on the list for being Hollywood's highest-paid go-to actress.

"Another reason why she's so appealing is because she often identifies — onscreen, anyway — with the working class," reports Premiere.

Part of the reasoning for picking actors like Roberts, Cruise, Will Smith (No. 44), Nicole Kidman (48), Russell Crowe (49) and Brad

Pitt (50) was their "staying power."

"We weren't going to do this list based on a whole nostalgic trip," said Kenny. "To just do a list where you're going to ignore contemporary movie stars makes no sense."

Twenty-six of the 50 greatest are dead, including Ingrid Bergman (5), Greta Garbo (8), James Stewart (9) and Henry Fonda (10).

Besides Cruise and Roberts, Paul Newman (6) is the only other

living actor to make the top 10.

Al Pacino and Robert De Niro finished 37th and 38th, while Denzel Washington was 39th.

"I think that if you get too hung up on rankings, you're going to miss the enjoyment of the list," said Kenny.

Beverly Dinkins, 56, a receptionist from Queens, thought the list was spot-on.

"I love movies, especially old movies," Dinkins said. "I think it's an excellent list. You have all my favorites — but not in the right order."

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Q Miranda Lambert's single "Me and Charlie Talking" was No. 1 on the country charts here for weeks. What can you tell me about her? — Rachel T., Austin, Texas
A After finishing third on USA Network's Nashville Star, the Texas native was signed by Sony. For her CD *Kerosene*, released last week, Lambert wrote all but one song. "I'm just 21," she tells us, "but my parents are private investigators, and I've seen a lot of reality. Relationships inspire my work."

Q When will we hear wedding bells for Derek Jeter and new gal pal Stacy Lynn Spierer? — Bradley Katz, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A Put away the rice, Jeter, 30, is known for loving and leaving 'em. The Yankee slugger's exes include pop diva Mariah Carey, 34, video jockey Vanessa Minnillo, 24, and actress Jordana Brewster, 27. Our advice to Spierer, 27, who has appeared in minor TV and film roles: Don't give up your day job.

Q You asked readers who should play Michael Ovitz in the Showtime movie "Two Blind Mice." What was the result? — C. Denton, Harrisburg, Pa.

A Several suggested Treat Williams, who did a superb job as Ovitz in "The Late Shift." Others voted for Greg Kinnear, Anthony Heald, William H. Macy and David Hyde Pierce. Our pick as Ovitz, once Hollywood's most powerful man: Jon Voight.

Q Who's the "Laney" Eminem mentions in his song "Mockingbird"? — Shannon Dowdle, Burrill Hills, N.Y.

A His niece, Alaina, 8. The rap star has custody of her and joint custody of his own daughter, Hailie, 9. He says the song — with lines like "ma-ma's always in the news" and "dad-dy's with you" — is meant for both of them. We think Eminem, 32, is trying to promote himself as a great dad while undermining the girls' mothers: his ex-wife Kim and her twin sister, Dawn.

Q Who's that brainy blonde with Ron Reagan on MSNBC's new show, "Connected Coast to Coast"? — Elaine Lombardo, Middleton, Mass.

A She's Monica Crowley, 36, a Columbia University Ph.D. who was former President Nixon's assistant on international affairs from 1990 until his death in 1994. Crowley began her broadcast career as a conservative commentator at WABC radio in 1996 and later joined Fox News. "I left for a chance to do a new kind of talk show — thoughtful, civilized debate," she says. MSNBC's gain is Fox's loss.

Q As a veteran, I'm curious about Johnny Carson's Navy career. What ship? — Dave Graham, San Diego, Calif.

A The Nebraska native enlisted in 1943 at 18 and served as an ensign on the battleship U.S.S. Pennsylvania. While on board, Johnny entertained his shipmates and honed his talents as a magician and comedian. He was discharged from the Navy in 1946.

Q I was surprised to hear on the History Channel that Lincoln's son Willie died of pneumonia. I thought he died of blood poisoning. — Diana Lomosad, Sacramento, Calif.

A It was Tad who probably died of pneumonia — in 1871 at age 18. Willie died in 1862 at 11 from what historians believe was typhoid fever. The Lincoln who may have had blood poisoning was the President's grandson, Abraham Lincoln II (known as Jack), who died in 1890 at 16. Incidentally, a new Lincoln museum opens this spring in Springfield, Ill. Visit www.alplm.org to learn more.

Q I was disappointed to hear that the Russell Crowe-Nicole Kidman film "Eucalyptus" was postponed due to script problems. Will it resume? — Sam Roberts, Portland, Maine

A We doubt it. Our Australian sources say the cancellation had nothing to do with the script — by director Jocelyn Moorhouse, who helped launch Crowe's film career with 1991's "Proof" — and everything to do with Crowe being difficult. Kidman is said to be devastated, and the Aussie film industry has lost millions. Friends warn Russell that top directors may scratch him from their casting sheets.

Q What do you make of TV Land's reality series with Farrah Fawcett, starting this Wednesday? — Chris C. Joplin, Mo.

A We can't wait. If the 58-year-old ex-pinup acts as awed as she did on her infamous guest appearance with David Letterman in 1997, "Chasing Farrah" should be the funniest show since "Seinfeld."

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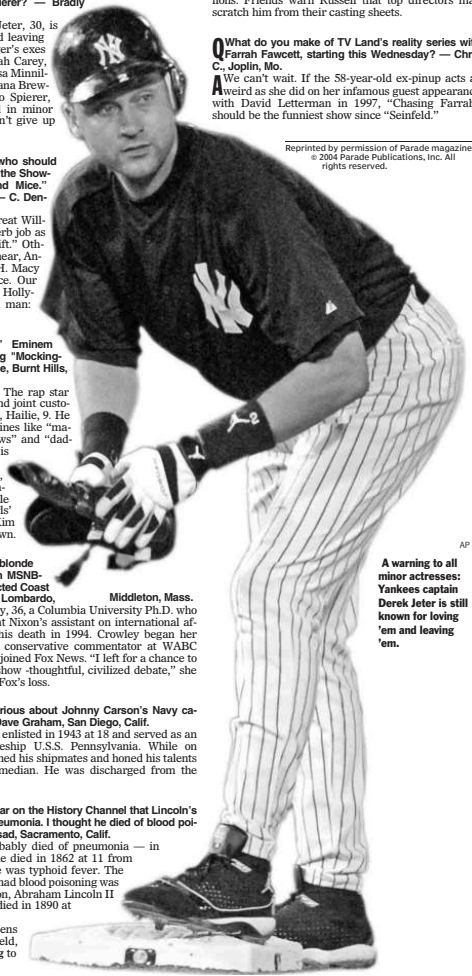
KRT

Stop us if you've heard this one before: Russell Crowe's selfishness affects all those around him — in this case, fellow Australian Nicole Kidman and director Jocelyn Moorhouse, who helped launch Crowe's career.



AP

Eminem loves two little ladies — his niece and daughter — but has less public affection for their mommies.



AP

A warning to all minor actresses: Yankees captain Derek Jeter is still known for loving 'em and leaving 'em.

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Blacks have opportunities

In response to "Why black enlistments dropped" (letter, March 17), I have seen nothing but positive steps in the services to promote and give career and educational opportunities to blacks as well as [those of different] nationalities.

To say that blacks can't overcome social and political elements due to their pigmentation is nothing more than an all-to-eager response to bring up feelings that simply are not part of today's military.

Military services promote blacks as much as their white counterparts. The military gives everyone excellent opportunities to better themselves. It is up to the individual to take those opportunities and utilize them.

The military doesn't prevent you from feeling welcomed or accepted; you are keeping yourself that way with a negative point of view that is well left in the past.

Vanessa Koch
Hohenfels, Germany

Don't include me in 'we'

In response to the writer of "Why black enlistments dropped" (letter, March 17), there are several things I need to make very clear.

You raised your right hand; no one forced you to join. I'm really wondering if the writer read what he wrote before he sent it and, what is more disturbing, Stripes printed it.

Do not use the word "we"; you do not speak for me or blacks.

You might step to the side until being called upon, [but] I fear because, exposed to the front.

What's this about "we" being exposed to the environment and situation at hand? Last time I checked, America elects its leaders and it did away with dictatorship, and you can practice the religion of your choice and say what you have said without fear of persecution.

I have no discontent or dissatisfaction; it's what you make of it.

Blacks have been attending institutions of higher learning; this is not something that just happened.

Next time you are in your window of

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re-enlist, please don't. I think "we" can make it without you.

One more thing: one-parent household, four graduated from college.

Staff Sgt. Antonio D. Relford
Schweinfurt, Germany

Proud to serve

I was disappointed to learn that the Army's bonuses and educational benefits do not "meet the standards" of [one letter writer's] "pride and dignity." ("Why black enlistments dropped," letter, March 17).

Perhaps I have lower standards. I am proud to serve my country and will re-enlist as soon as my window opens.

Sgt. James Anderson
Camp Liberty, Iraq

Right to an opinion

I would like to respond to the recent letters concerning the comic "Doonesbury."

I have noticed that most of the recent letter writers have missed out on the most important part of all this. Everyone has a right to their opinion whether you like it or not.

I personally do not like "Doonesbury"

for its left-wing propaganda, but I will not request any paper to remove it from its editorial section because some people do like it.

I also believe in freedom of speech, which also entails with it the freedom to choose. I read a recent letter in which the author quoted a Vermont editor about "letters to the editor" saying the mouths of "fools." I would like to point out that this runs true on both sides, not just conservatives to which the letter writer was alluding.

Staff Sgt. Andres E. Redondo
Camp Taji, Iraq

Combat arms troops special

I used to be in the infantry but I have changed my military occupational specialty to military police, and I do not think anyone but combat arms should get the Combat Infantryman Badge.

You may see combat several times, but that is not your job to do just that, and only that, if you are not combat arms. You are in support of some kind and you support the combat MOSs, and that is your job.

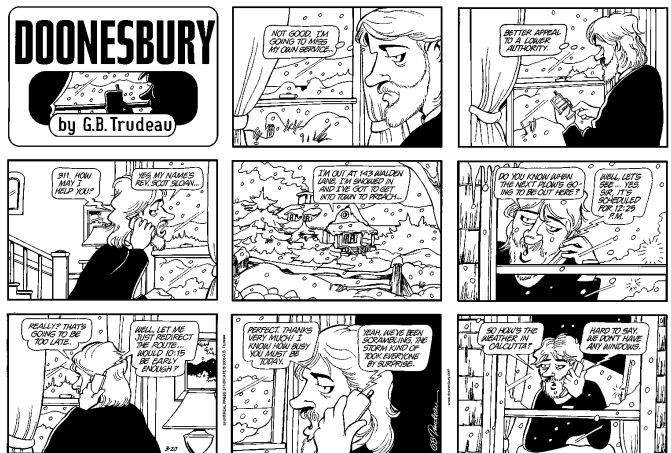
You do get a unit patch on your right sleeve signifying you were in a combat situation. Why is that not good enough?

If you are not in an MOS that trains only for combat, then you are in a support position. The guys in combat MOSs deserve the extra award. They are different and special. I know that might be difficult to hear in this day and age when everyone thinks they deserve what everyone else has.

Everyone deserves awards for what they do above and beyond, and a lot of credit is due to all the support MOSs. Regardless of the situation, if I were to earn more than I would not deserve any extra award because I am in a combat support MOS and I support in any way I can. If that means standing right beside them, then that is where I will be.

If you are attached to an airborne unit, are you given airborne wings? Oh, that's right, you have to go to school first, by changing your MOS. So what is the difference? The answer: There is none. They are special, deal with it.

Sgt. Joshua Frischman
Heidelberg, Germany



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Greenspan right on budget's ills The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's warning that ballooning federal deficits are "unsustainable" should be a much-needed splash of cold water for a White House that too often puts ideology before fiscal reality.

Greenspan thinks the problem demands spending cuts and a reassessment of efforts to cut taxes. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans think he's only half right. They ought to be listening with both ears. ...

The deficit problem is driven more by Medicare than Social Security. The federal government has passed huge entitlement increases, primarily a Medicare prescription drug benefit, at the same time it has cut its own revenue by "temporary" tax cuts that the White House still wants to make permanent. Anyone who prepares a household budget knows what happens when you increase expenses while losing income. ...

Regardless of what Vice President (Dick) Cheney thinks, deficits do matter. They pay for current needs by mortgaging the country's future. But those bills eventually come due. Greenspan is right to worry that ever-increasing debt, plus ever-increasing interest costs on that debt, could mean disaster when that debt collides with increasing baby boomer Medicare and Social Security obligations, let alone the costs of wars.

Shedding light on secrecy The News Tribune, Tacoma, Wash.

Self-preservation is human nature, and so it is not surprising when someone tries to hide a potentially embarrassing or compromising bit of information about himself. That instinct leads some government officials to keep their dealings secret. But, in fact, the information they want to keep under wraps isn't primarily about them. It's about us. ...

That's the aim of public disclosure laws — to make sure private citizens can get at the information that affects their daily lives, whether they know it or not. ...

Sunshine Week, an effort spearheaded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, is intended to highlight the importance of public disclosure laws and to call attention to their erosion.

The journalists' fight against government secrecy is the public's fight; reporters and editors just are the first to notice encroachments on the public's right to know. ...

The fight will never end because government will always be a human endeavor. The people we put in charge need constant reminders that they avoid embarrassment at the public's peril and, eventually, their own. It's not about them. It's about us.

U.N. has issues with Bolton Chicago Tribune

Since the start of his second term, President Bush has sent repeated messages that when he talks about aggressively spreading freedom and democracy, he means what he says. This month's reiteration comes via the president's nomination of serial truth-teller John Bolton as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

If the Senate confirms the appointment, Bush will have aimed a tidal wave of energy and candor at the snooty U.N. complex on New York City's East River. This promises to free the awfully crowded lobby too often consumed by such weighty issues as where in Manhattan diplomats can park free, and



who'll be air-kissing whom at tonight's reception. ...

For too long, the U.N. has been reluctant to offend powerful exploiters in its midst. In Darfur, for example, the determination of China to buy Sudanese oil and of Russia to sell Sudan weapons has blocked any real effort to talk about human rights.

U.N. delegates need to hear more confrontational talk about the organization's failings and also about nuclear proliferation, an area in which Bolton is expert. And if a tidal wave on the East River breaks some cobwebbed windows, good.

Society must protect judges The Cincinnati Enquirer

A defendant in Atlanta wrecks a gun from a deputy and kills a judge in his courtroom. A disappointed litigant murders the husband and mother of a judge in Chicago and has a list of other judicial targets when he kills himself as police approach. A disturbed woman sends threatening letters to a federal judge in Cincinnati. These recent stories from America's courtrooms are just a fraction of the risks our judges face daily.

These high-profile cases also highlight the need for ever more vigilant security and a very small tolerance for those who attack all of us by attacking the judicial system. ...

Protecting judges, particularly on the federal level, poses many challenges, not the least of which is cost. But against the backdrop of these recent tragedies, now is the time to reassess the security of our courts and those who dispense justice within them.

Be flexible on Social Security The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

Whether you love him or hate him, at least a few of President Bush's words about Social Security should ring true.

"My call to people from both political parties is: Now is the time to put aside our political differences and focus on solving this problem for generations to come," Bush said during a recent appearance in Memphis. "All ideas should be on the table."

From the way Bush was talking, it sounded as if even his idea to create private accounts — the controversial centerpiece of his reform plan — is open for debate.

That's a good thing, since a poll conducted by The Associated Press indicates that only

37 percent of Americans agree with his approach to fixing Social Security. Aside from a few hecklers who were escorted out of the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, the (Memphis) crowd was pretty respectful. However, the protesters outside reflected our country's deep division on this issue.

Yet if our president is really willing to be flexible and consider new ideas, the rest of us should be, too.

Oceans alert to avoid runoff The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

Anyone who lives in Louisiana is familiar with this scenario: runoff from farmland drains into the Gulf and triggers a massive bloom of algae that sucks oxygen out of the water as it dies and decomposes.

In this case, though, the phenomenon being described isn't the Gulf of Mexico dead zone that forms off the coast of Louisiana and Texas every summer. Instead, it's what happens in the Gulf of California — also called the Sea of Cortez — after irrigation in the Yaqui River Valley.

Researchers at Stanford University who analyzed satellite photographs were able to show a direct connection between irrigation and algae blooms. ...

The study reveals how vulnerable our oceans really are, and it should strengthen the argument for changes in farming practices.

Stanford researchers warn that dead zones could damage the shrimp and shellfish industry and hurt other marine life in the Gulf of California. The potential is there for loss of similar resources in other parts of the world, including our own.

No idiots in the jury box Los Angeles Times

Last summer, we questioned former Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay's decision to set ignorance as the cornerstone of his legal defense against charges that he helped to orchestrate the massive accounting fraud that sank his company, destroyed investors' wealth and cost thousands of employees their jobs. ... We didn't seem plausible that jurors would buy into a powerful executive's claim to be incompetent.

Apparently, lawyers don't always heed newspaper editorials. Defense teams for former WorldCom Chief Executive Bernard J. Ebbers and former HealthSouth CEO Richard M. Scrushy also signed on to the "idiot

defense," claiming that their clients' subordinates had pulled off the sham accounting on their own while the bosses were busy with more important things.

Early returns suggest that jurors aren't buying it. On Tuesday, a New York jury determined that Ebbers was guilty of all nine criminal counts of securities fraud, conspiracy and lying to regulators in orchestrating the largest accounting fraud in U.S. corporate history. ...

The total breakdown of Ebbers' idiot defense should send a powerful message to Scrushy and Lay. Scrushy, the first corporate executive to be tried under provisions of the federal Sarbanes-Oxley Act, sparked by Enron's failure, is pressing on with the "I know nothing" defense in a Birmingham, Ala., courtroom. Lay, who will go on trial early next year on fraud and conspiracy charges, is so far taking the same tack.

His lawyers had best scramble for a Plan B. ...

Ignorance may be bliss in some quarters, but not in the executive suite.

Push on to limit junk-food ads St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Parents have a responsibility to prevent their children from becoming overweight. But what can they do about those ads that saturate the airwaves on Saturday mornings, enthralling kids to fill up on sugary cereal, candy, drinks and chips? They could turn off the TV. They could model healthy eating habits by resisting their own junk-food urges. And they can pressure government agencies to regulate the way junk food is hyped to kids.

Last fall, the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, urged that a conference be convened to develop strict government guidelines for food marketing to children. Instead, the U.S. Department of Health urged voluntary action by industry. ...

Groups ranging from the American Academy of Pediatrics to the World Health Organization have called for restrictions on the marketing of junk food to children. The food industry can't pretend it doesn't know how effective its marketing efforts have been. ...

It's in every taxpayer's interest to combat the predatory marketing practices of junk-food makers with the same vigor, if not the same tools, used to end the predatory marketing practices of the tobacco industry. If they can get Joe Camel fired, who knows? The Trix bunny rabbit may be next.

Toll-road blues

NH MERRIMACK — Local motorists are disappointed that the discount tokens they use to pay ramp tolls at three exits in town are one step closer to being eliminated.

"The town of Merrimack is very disappointed that the House saw fit to eliminate the token and discount," Selectmen Chairman Dick Hinch said.

Merrimack motorists must pay 50-cent tolls at Exit 10, 11 and 12 of the Everett Turnpike. Eliminating the tokens is part of the plan to implement E-Z Pass in New Hampshire.

"There has to be some consideration given to the residents of Merrimack ... You pay to get out and you pay to get in. There is no other town in the state like it," Hinch said, calling the ramp tolls "unfair."

The legislation passed by the state would eliminate the high-way tokens, which provide a 50 percent discount. The measure must be passed by the Senate and signed by the governor to take effect.

Schools scan visitors

TX HOUSTON — More than 400 schools in 14 districts in the Houston area have gone high-tech when it comes to identifying and keeping track of campus visitors.

The new system, called V-soft — or visitor, student or faculty tracking — is a Web-based software program that can flag visitors who are known sex offenders. The system also keeps a log of when visitors arrive and leave campus, and alerts school officials to people who should not be on campus.

The computer software gets visitors' personal information by scanning their driver's license or state ID card. This information is checked against the Texas Department of Public Safety's database for registered sex offenders.

Sky-high deck to reopen

NY NEW YORK — A 70-story-high observation deck at Rockefeller Center will reopen this fall after a \$75 million renovation, the complex's co-owner said.

The deck, atop 30 Rockefeller Center, has been closed since 1986, when the Rainbow Room restaurant expanded into its space. It is expected to draw about 2 million visitors a year, according to Tishman Speyer Properties, co-owners of Rockefeller Center.

Views from the open-air deck will encompass most of the city, including Central Park and the skyscrapers of midtown and lower Manhattan.

At 850 feet above street level, it will be the city's second-highest observatory (the highest is atop the Empire State Building, which is about 200 feet higher).

Smoking ban advances

NJ TRENTON — Gamblers would not be allowed to



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

smoke on Atlantic City casino floors or inside fraternal organizations under a measure passed by a New Jersey Senate committee.

Lawmakers voted 7-0 for the measure, which also covers restaurants, bars and offices.

Representatives from the Casino Association of New Jersey said a ban would drive away gamblers and harm the state's economy.

If the ban in New Jersey is passed, the state would join New York, Massachusetts, California and a handful of others that prohibit smoking in indoor public places.

Goat keeper charged

WV CHARLESTON — A man who allegedly left a trail of dead goats through several states has lost custody of his 200-plus remaining animals pending the outcome of animal cruelty cases in Ohio and West Virginia.

Christopher Weathersbee, 64, fled to West Virginia with 16 of his goats, including a dead one he'd been storing in a freezer, in late February amid an impoundment and seizure by agents in Scioto County, Ohio.

Ohio agents found an estimated 80 goat carcasses on his rented property — including one in the house and another nine in a freezer, according to Teresa Landon, director of the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



Reaching new height

Dewan Commodore, a Middletown High School senior, clears a strap used for the bar as he practices his high-jump technique during the second week of spring training at the school in Middletown, Ohio.

Weathersbee told officials he does not bury dead animals right away to allow the "spirit to pass," Landon said.

Shrimp is big find

ID BOISE — Biologists with the Idaho National Guard have discovered a new species of fairy shrimp living in the off-dry lake beds of Idaho's desert.

Though they look delicate enough to match their name, they are strong enough to survive, unhatched, for years in the baking heat of summer and the frozen tundra of winter until enough rain falls and the pools return. Once they awaken they live a few frenzied weeks, mating and leaving behind tiny cystlike offspring, then die.

"This is a large, predatory fairy shrimp. This guy is about 3 inches long. That is huge for a fairy shrimp," biologist Dana Quinney said Tuesday during a news conference announcing the discovery.

Ex-dead man on mend

NC LOUISBURG — A man who was hit by a car and mistakenly declared dead is out of the hospital and continuing his recovery in a rehabilitation center, relatives said.

Larry Green was hit by a car the night of Jan. 24 as he walked home after buying beer.

Green, 29, was examined on the scene by paramedics and a medical examiner, declared dead and his body taken to a morgue. There, 2½ hours after the accident, the same medical examiner detected signs of life. He was hospitalized.

Green suffered a severe head injury, broken leg and is paralyzed.

Two of the four paramedics who treated Green were fired and their credentials suspended, though the credential of one has been reinstated pending an administrative hearing. The other two were ordered to take remedial training. The medical examiner was not disciplined.

Abortion ban on hold

MI LANSING — A new state law that bans a procedure critics call partial-birth abortion will not take effect this month so that the state has more time to respond to a federal lawsuit challenging the statute.

Under an agreement reached by Attorney General Mike Cox and three groups that filed suit, the abortion law was put on hold until June 15. It was scheduled to take effect March 30.

Cox spokeswoman Allison Pierce said the state needed more time to respond to the suit, which was filed March 1.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood Federation of American argue the law is unconstitutional because it could be interpreted as a ban on all abortions and does not allow exceptions for when a mother's life or health are in danger.



Just skijoring

Patty St. Onge gets a pull from her 20-month-old American water spaniel, Emma, as they go skijoring down a road in Maple, Wis.



Tulips are bloomin'

A tulip tree blooms brightly along 44th Street at Warwick Blvd in Kansas City.



Hut of sand
Andy Briggs of Victoria, British Columbia, a sand artist with Sand Sculpture Company of Chicago, works on fine-tuning a beach hut made with 60 tons of riverbed sand on the exhibit floor at the Flower, Lawn & Garden Show in Kansas City, Mo.



Get your frozen fish
Jeff Kissinger pulls up a perch while ice fishing on Erie Canal Lock 2 in Waterford, N.Y.



Statuesque scene
A Keene State College student walks past a sculpture by Rob Loreson titled "Aurora" on the school's campus in Keene, N.H.



Gimme a kiss
Three-month-old calves lick milk from each other's faces on the Klodt Dairy Farm in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Photos just for fun

MN ST. PAUL — State Rep. Tim Rukavina urged Gov. Tim Pawlenty to remove from his official Web site a "Pawnty Family Photo Album" containing 21 pictures of a pretty darn cute young future governor.

"I was a cute little baby, too," said Rukavina.

Rukavina contends that childhood pictures, which he views as designed to make folks feel warmer toward the governor, are a "totally inappropriate" form of self-promotion when posted on a taxpayer-financed Web site.

Pawlenty removed the pictures and playfully chided Rukavina for engaging in a trivial pursuit.

Lockdown unsuccessful

MD JESSUP — An inmate was stabbed with a shank hours after authorities lifted a monthlong prison lockdown that was imposed during an intensive search for such homemade weapons.

The attacker had fashioned his weapon from a piece of metal in a light fixture, said Capt. Priscilla Doggett, spokeswoman for the Maryland Division of Correction.

She said the victim was treated for a non-life-threatening wound he suffered in the attack. Both men are serving life sentences for homicides.

Fight for job ends

KY LOUISVILLE — A former police officer fired after shooting a teenager during an undercover drug buy dropped his bid to return to the police force and will receive \$59,500 in back pay, city officials said.

A statement from the mayor's office said McKenzie Mattingly ended his appeals in a six-month effort to recover his job.

Mattingly, a detective, fatally shot Michael Newby, 19, in January 2004 in an undercover drug buy gone awry.

Mattingly was indicted for murder but was acquitted of all charges related to Newby's death in a trial in September. He was fired last April by Chief Robert White, who said Mattingly violated department policy.

Pre-funeral fund-raiser

NH HAMPTON — Former state lawmaker Jane Kelley, who is diagnosed with terminal cancer, threw herself a "pre-funeral" party where guests were asked to donate \$25 to her cremation fund.

In exchange, they were excused from attending the wake, funeral and sending flowers when she dies.

A long wait for justice

TX HOUSTON — Months after his release from prison, a man who served nearly two decades behind bars is still waiting to find out if the evidence that questioned his guilt in a brutal crime will be enough to keep him free.

Prosecutors have asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to allow them to retry 44-year-old George Rodriguez in the kidnapping and

rape of a 14-year-old girl, for which he was convicted in 1987.

Rodriguez was serving a 60-year sentence for the crime when DNA tests showed blood and hair at the crime scene may have come from another man who was not prosecuted in the case.

Rodriguez was released in October because of faulty work and testimony in his case by the Houston Police Department's crime lab analysts.

Loggers back at work

OR GRANTS PASS — Loggers went to work without interference at the site of a 2002 forest fire, felling old-growth trees after the U.S. Forest Service closed off the area to keep out protesters.

Citing safety concerns for loggers and protesters alike, officials in the Siskiyou National Forest on Monday closed the 700-acre area and roads leading to the timber sale. Protesters had impeded loggers going to work.

Forest Service spokesman Tom Lavagnino said a crew of loggers had no trouble getting to work, and rangers had not spotted a tree sitter who logging opponents said was in a fir tree.

Consolidation plan

IO DES MOINES — Lawmakers unveiled a six-year plan requiring Iowa's 99 counties and 950 cities to consolidate government services and separate into regions. The goal is to reduce duplication of government services and lower property taxes.

Suicide or murder?

CO DENVER — Authorities have arrested a 14-year-old girl on suspicion of manslaughter while they investigate her story that she helped her father commit suicide.

The girl said her 56-year-old father, a self-employed electrician, tried to fatally shoot himself and was near death when she found him, allegedly prompting her to "end his suffering." Boulder County sheriff's Lt. Phil Weist said.

Investigators were trying to determine if the man indeed tried to kill himself, he said.

Inconsistencies in the girl's story and their initial investigation — including the absence of a suicide note — led them to arrest the teenager.

Oyster restocking

VA BURGESS — Work has begun on what will be the largest restocking effort with disease-resistant shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay.

Officials think their latest idea may hold the key to restoring the ecologically and economically important bivalve.

"We're very optimistic," said Doug Martin, project coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Last week, Martin hosted a boat tour of the oyster grounds as an initial 339,000 specially bred native oysters were dumped into the river. Plans call for releasing a total of 15 million oysters by the end of next month.

Stories and photos from wire services

Sunday Horoscope

The week starts with the spring equinox, a celebration of nature's renewal and rebirth. The solar journey into Aries brings the day and night into perfect balance. Then, light overtakes the darkness little by little as the day progresses. The fine and masculine energy find equilibrium, too, and men and women enjoy mutual respect.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 20: You will it, so become it. You can translate success in one area of your life to another in April. Steady gains in your career give you a well of confidence to draw from. Your property increases in value in June. Vacation with a sweetheart in August. Singles are introducing someone to the folks in the early summer. Sagittarius and Taurus are love signs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Whatever your age, you feel a part of a new generation — fresh, full of ideas, and free of the cynicism that encumbers others. Friends remind you why you chose them in the first place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Don't let anyone close to you, even if it seems unnecessary. Don't make the mistake of believing that a relationship, once established, will always be there even if you neglect it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Love is the last thing on your mind. But bring it to the front. Consider that romance needs equal parts breathing room and attentiveness. Too much of one or the other knocks the relationship off balance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

So much of what happens in your romantic situation is happening on an unconscious level. Sensitize yourself to subtleties that will clue you in to how to please your partner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a brave day — you're not afraid of being the "bad guy." Your boundaries and expectations are very clear now. You know what you

need and can accurately assess who is able and willing to give that to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are a complex creature. You can't expect everyone to understand you on every level, and some people may never "get" you. But that one kindred soul will be your rock. Trust the relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You've had your doubts about your neighborhood lately, but when you go beyond the riffraff there is a vibrant community out there, worthy of your active participation. Get involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're too busy creating the life you want to notice that someone else is prying away at you. There is romantic potential there. Still, be sure to see people for who they are and not for who you want them to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Projects are challenging. Don't worry about being correct so much as being passionate and committed. Strengthen your faith. All magic springs from your connection with the universal source.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Think of all-consuming greed or person in your life could take over if you're not careful. Don't forget your routines, your habits, your friends and the things you do to take care of your mind, body and spirit. It's still important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You don't have a need for big drama, but someone close to you does. So when the "passion play" starts, view it with a sense of detached humor. Don't get sucked in. This is reality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're trying to compromise, be compassionate and, of course, be tolerant. However, certain people can't help but push you to the limit — it's their nature. If it crosses your boundaries or hurts your feelings, just say "no!"

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Caring for demanding mother and rest of family too taxing

Dear Abby: My mother is 80 and still lives by herself.

She has had three strokes in the last 20 years, and her memory is very bad. She is also very stubborn and belligerent. She really belongs in an assisted-living facility; however, she refuses to go to one. She says she'll kill herself first.

I manage Mama's finances. I also make her doctor's appointments, transport her there, take her to the pharmacy, the grocery store, etc. I do all Mama's driving because she can't leave the block she lives on without getting lost.

Mother depends on me for everything, and she hates my husband of 18 years, who treats me just like gold. She would never admit it, but she hates him because he's physically disabled and it keeps me from giving her all my time and attention.

Mama tries to make me feel guilty by acting like she's completely helpless. There are a lot of things she could do for herself, but she refuses. I'm always stressed out over her, on top of the load I'm carrying with my husband and daughter. Have you any suggestions?

— Stressed to the Max in Tulsa

Dear Stressed: You are a con-

scientious, dutiful daughter.

However, people can spread themselves only so thin without it beginning to affect their health.

If your mother's reasoning had not been already affected by strokes and dementia, she would

realize that fact. The time has come to call her doctor and discuss what alternatives might be available in caring for her. Assisted living would be ideal, but only if she could adjust to it.

If it would be too traumatic, perhaps a part-time caregiver could be hired through senior services in your community.

Dear Abby: I was in

a serious car accident back in 1986 and have been living with the facial scars ever since.

I hate the way I look and would like to see if a doctor can improve my appearance. The problem is, my husband doesn't want me to talk to a doctor.

Yes, I had the scars when I met my husband 15 years ago. I have lived with the deformities for a very long time. But not a day goes by that I don't think about how I could look if I had surgery to improve my appearance.

I don't know if my insurance would cover the costs of surgery,

but when it comes to my husband "needing" a boat, Jeep or snowmobile — or whatever suits his fancy at the time — money is never a problem.

I have money from the car accident, but if there were any costs for the surgery, it wouldn't have to come out of my husband's paycheck. I cannot expect you to have had a feel about myself, but my husband does know. Do you think I should see a doctor to find out if surgery is an option for me, or should I just accept the way I am and not think about improving my appearance?

— Scared and Confused in Philadelphia

Dear Scared: By all means consult a plastic surgeon.

You deserve to be the best that you can be. However, when you do, please understand that it could change the dynamics of your relationship with your husband. It appears that he has a vested interest in keeping you just as you are, and the reason may be that he is afraid he will lose you if you look different. Some cases with a marriage counselor might put his fears to rest. Much depends upon his own level of self-esteem.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Snoring could be bad for woman's health, family life

Dear Annie: My wife, "Sarah," and I had a wonderful life together and were very happy until she started snoring. I know it sounds crazy, but this has ruined our lives.

Sarah's snoring means she can't sleep through the night, and she's irritable in the morning. This loving, caring woman is now too tired for her usual daily routine.

She used to be full of life, but now she gets sleepy in the afternoons and doesn't have enough energy to pick up the kids from school or attend their after-school events.

Her snoring affects me as much as it does her. The noise keeps me up, and I, too, am not getting a full night's rest. I've started snapping at the kids and feel run-down all the time. Sarah and I have gone from having a wonderful, intimate sex life to sleeping in separate rooms, on opposite sides of the house.

I've spoken to her about seeing a doctor, but she's convinced her snoring is minor and thinks I should be able to live with it, like she does. She says she can't do anything about it.

I've read information from the

National Sleep Foundation (sleepfoundation.org) that says snoring can be a symptom of more serious problems, including sleep apnea, which can be dangerous and even life-threatening if not treated.

How do I convince Sarah that she needs help?

— Sleeping Beauty's Husband

Dear Husband: You are right to be concerned. Without treatment, sleep apnea can cause cardiovascular disease, memory problems, sexual dysfunction, weight gain and more, not to mention the possibility of Sarah having a car accident because she isn't completely awake.

Insist that she talk to her doctor, or you will call the doctor's office yourself and pass along the information for her next checkup. If she won't do it for herself, ask her to do it for the well-being of your marriage and for your children.

Dear Annie: I read the letter

from the parole officer who advised a woman to protect her granddaughter who was writing to inmates. Please continue to print letters on that theme, along with solid advice from experts who know the score.

I knew a single woman who began exchanging letters with an inmate. Notice the use of the past tense. This woman thought she was being kind and helpful, and over a couple of years, a friendship developed. She eventually began to drive to the prison to visit. The prisoner was charming and very upfront about his past. They fell in love. A year later, he was released, and she invited him to stay at her home.

She believed they would marry. Instead, she went through a brief and brutal period of abuse that ended in her death.

Please tell your readers who want to help these lonely men to work only through a strictly organized, well-established group, and never, ever, give out personal information.

— A California Reader

Dear California: You may have saved a life by sharing your horrifying story and warning our readers about the dangers of corresponding with inmates. Thank you.

Abby Cadabby is written by Kathy Matlack and Marcy Sparg, longtime editors of the *Ann Landers* column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmail@uepress.com or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Chic is not always stylish

Dear Editor: I read that "chic" originally meant something different in French than it means now, and that the current French meaning was first used in English and then adopted as the French meaning too.

How and why did this happen? What was the original French meaning?

— F.P., Enfield, Conn.

Dear F.P.: The word "chic" has been used in French with a wide range of meanings since the late 18th century.

As a noun referring to a painter's technique, it often had a pejorative nuance and meant "fashion bordering on the shallow."

As an adjective, it meant "stylish," and this is the sense that was borrowed into English in the middle of the 19th century.

It is conceivable that the English use may have helped to reinforce the meaning "stylish" for the word as used in French and to hasten the demise of the old painter's sense.

But we did not invent the meaning "stylish," and the French did not have to borrow it from us.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

RELIGION

Church in ruins in Texas desert

Effort made to save Mission del Sagrado Corazon

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
The Associated Press

RUIDOSA, Texas — Time, neglect and the unforgiving desert are threatening to devour a nearly century-old piece of Texas history. The Mission del Sagrado Corazon, the Sacred Heart Mission, is crumbling in remote desolation along the Rio Grande.

The deterioration accelerates each time a rainstorm sweeps across the normally parched region, washing away mud bricks used to make the building. Historical groups are rallying to save the abandoned Catholic church, where services last were held decades ago.

"It's been getting worse and worse," said Larry Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission. "At this stage of the game, probably a third of the building has literally melted into the landscape."

One of the two towers that flanked the entrance of the church is gone, toppled after a storm several years ago. What's left resembles a giant antihill.

The distinctive arches — believed to be the largest round-structural adobe arches left in Texas — are still erect, the biggest rising about 18 feet above the weed-covered dirt floor.

"It's just a grand and sort of monumental structure," Oaks says.

The big question is can it stand without help. It's also unclear if help that's on the way will arrive in time.

"It's getting real close," says Pat Taylor, a Mesilla, N.M.-based adobe restoration specialist who has examined the church and has been advising officials. "There's a lot of water that's getting in and washing down the walls. It's definitely in trouble."

The \$44,000 raised so far is about



The Mission del Sagrado Corazon, in Ruidosa, Texas, stands in ruins along Texas State Highway 770. The church once had twin towers, but only one remains. The pile of mud debris from the collapsed tower can still be seen on the front left.

three-fourths of the estimated cost for emergency work to stabilize the structure, Taylor said. The bulk of the money, however, is from a Texas Historical Commission grant that requires a local effort match the state funds. The commission speculates it could cost another \$250,000 to fully restore the mission as a tourist destination.

Many bricks on the arches are exposed, showing the skeletal work of the adobe masons who used round flat rocks as spacers to create the arches of sand and straw bricks when they built the church, around 1915.

"That building is really quite amazing," said Darlene Jamar, of Marfa, who has researched the history of the church. "It was built by volunteer labor by the people that lived there at the time. They cared that much. It was really a project of love."

At the time when the mission was built, farmers scraped out a living with the help of water from the Rio Grande. U.S. Army troops were stationed here as part of a border buildup during the Mexican Revolution. The remnants of the old outpost are nearby.

The church appears suddenly at the top of a rise and around a curve on Texas Farm Road 170, which parallels the winding Rio Grande. The Chinit Mountains lie to the east and the Sierra Madre towers from the west in Mexico. El Paso is 250 miles to the northwest.

Rusty Hill, 45, who runs the general store with his mother, said the restoration would be a boon to the community. "If everybody who came by to say a prayer and light a candle also stopped by and bought a Coke, it wouldn't hurt our business," he said.

It already attracts visitors. Celia Hill has a guest book in the store, and customers leave a pin on her world map if they're the first from their city or country to stop by.

"It's a great structure," Taylor said. "I work on these types of structures all the time and I never take them for granted. These structures represent a history, a time period, a people."

"And when a structure like this is lost, it's pretty much lost forever."

Donations may be made to the Ruidosa Mission Project, Presidio County Courthouse, P.O. Box 606, Marfa, Texas 79843

Nuns seek sainthood for lepers' savior

BY WILLIAM KATES
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Sisters of St. Francis are waiting on a miracle.

That's what it will take to bring sainthood to Franciscan Mother Marianne Cope, who abandoned the comfort of her Roman Catholic convent in upstate New York more than a century ago to help Hawaii's lepers, and left a legacy of schools, orphanages and hospitals.

"We can wait," said Sister Grace Anne Dillenschneider, assistant general minister of the Sisters of St. Francis. "We've waited all this time. We believe it's only a matter of time."

In December, Pope John Paul II accepted a report of one miracle attributed to the intervention of Mother Marianne. The case involved a Syracuse teenager who suffered multiple organ failure and recovered after she was touched by a relic of Mother Marianne and prayers were offered seeking the nun's intercession on the girl's behalf. Cope is expected to be beatified as "Blessed Mother Marianne" in a May 15 Mass at St. Peter's Square.

A second miracle attributed to her intercession is required for her to be canonized.

Mother Marianne was born Jan. 23, 1838, as Barbara Koob in Heppenheim, Germany, and moved to Utica, N.Y., in 1840. Her father supported the family of nine as a laborer. Cope took religious vows in 1863 with Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and died in 1918 at age 80.

Different approaches made by Jars of Clay and Sonicflood

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Jars of Clay dug into the roots of Gospel music and found treasure.

The band that helped define Christian rock started by pouring through old hymnals, looking for lyrics with rich spiritual insight. They then wrote new melodies for obscure hymns and updated familiar standards. The result, "Redemption Songs," which hits stores this week, proves that 2-century-old hymns and spirituals have plenty to say to 21st-century listeners.

One of the best of the recent songs is "God Will Lift Up Your Head," about the joy awaiting believers. It's a catchy track that relies on a simple beat and frontman Dan Haskins' soaring vocals to propel its encouraging message. Another standout in this category is the more-nuanced "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand," which includes vocals by the Blind Boys of Alabama.

Undoubtedly, the more familiar tunes will resonate with many listeners. They include excellent renditions of "Nothing But the Blood," another collaboration with the Blind Boys, and "I'll Fly Away," which is accented by the voice of newcomer Sarah Kelly. While many of the disc's songs

have a Southern or folk feel, "It Is Well," comes through with a mid-'60s flavor.

It's an interesting switch. The disc wraps up with a haunting version of "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love."

"Redemption Songs" succeeds on many levels but its most important achievement is making the richness and depth of traditional hymns accessible to a new audience by retuning them for the modern ear.

The band can be found on the Web: www.jarsofclay.com

While Jars of Clay is drawing inspiration from past generations, the new disc by Sonicflood is firmly focused on this genera-

tion.

The band's "This Generation" — released March 8 — offers several high-energy songs that are certain to be popular at modern worship services. The disc's first single, "Your Love Goes On Forever," popped up to 20 on Billboard's Christian adult contemporary chart last week and has been climbing the R&R radio chart.

Though some of the lyrics aren't particularly deep, especially when compared with the spiritual insights contained in "Redemption Songs," they are quite singable. At a Virginia concert just before the CD's release, the new songs captured the crowd despite their unfamiliarity.

The title track offers hard-edged rock as it calls worshippers to praise. Frontman Rick Heil's voice is plaintive in "All I've Failed to Be," which asks "take me Lord. Make me whole." "Prodigal" offers a similar theme, stating "mold me and make me. Let me fall into your arms of love again." "You Are" is an exuberant praise of Jesus. "Never Forget You" is an asser-



(NO RECORDS)

Sonicflood — from left, Trey Hill, Chris Kimmere, Rick Heil, Grant Norsworthy, Jordan Jameson — released their latest CD, "This Generation" on March 8.

tive take on Psalm 103.

It's little wonder that Heil seems to focus on being remade. He recently revealed that doctors had discovered that he had been headed of Crohn's disease, a debilitating intestinal condition that is normally permanent.

The disc also represents a new incarnation of Sonicflood, with

only Heil returning from previous efforts. However, the new crew seems to be a good fit.

The band can be found on the Web: www.sonicflood.com

Today's Prayer is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowers@stripes.com

YOUR MONEY

Credit reports are free, if you're careful

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN
Orange County (Calif.) Register

When J.J. Singh heard in December that he could get a free credit report, he immediately went online to sign up. Within seconds, the report appeared on his computer screen, ready to download and print out.

"It was excellent," the retired Le Palma, Calif., engineer said about the ordering process.

Ed Bushman, a retired radio manager in Irvine, Calif., phoned for his free credit report about the same time as Singh went online and nearly two months later, he's still waiting to get it.

"They talk a good talk," Bushman said about the three big credit-reporting companies. "But after they got all the publicity, they dropped the ball."

December's launch of free annual credit reports won mixed reviews from consumers, with some applauding the program while others say it has fallen short.

The aim of the program, required by a new federal law, is to let consumers easily check their credit reports for inaccuracies and any evidence of identity theft.

Credit-reporting agencies Equifax, Experian and TransUnion had a year to put together the joint program, but even with all the advance planning, there were glitches.

Most of the problems occurred the first week, as the first of an estimated 40 million to 50 million consumers in the Western states jammed the Web site.

The first day we had very heavy volumes of requests from thousands of people visiting the site trying to get their report," said John Danaher, president of TrueCredit, a subsidiary of TransUnion that oversees its credit reporting.

About 70 percent of TransUnion's requests for reports

Consumers confused as no-cost personal financial info becomes available

come online, with most of the rest coming through a toll-free phone number. Just a fraction of the requests are made in writing, Danaher said.

In response to the crush of requests, the agencies say they beefed up staffing and now most of their Internet problems, such as online delays and computer crashes, appear to be resolved.

Consumers say phone requests vary from very efficient to totally frustrating, depending on your tolerance for going through an automated menu of questions and the expertise of the customer representative you get.

People who submit written requests report getting either response within 10 days or none at all.

Jennette Gayer, consumer advocate for the California Public Interest Research Group, a non-partisan consumer watchdog group, is concerned that the system is unnecessarily complicated.

"If I were to design this, I could think of a hundred ways to make it more consumer-friendly," Gayer said.

For instance, consumers making their request online must ask for each report individually from each of the three agencies. That requires going to the official Web site three separate times, typing in your name, address, birth date

and Social Security number each time, then selecting one of the three credit agencies and answering additional questions to confirm your identity.

Each agency has different questions and requirements and required,

all the hurdles are for consumers' protection to ensure they are who they say they are before getting access to credit information.

"When you go through the process of ordering a credit report online, you need to get authenticated," he said.

Even if you get kicked offline you still can get your report, he said. You just have to order by phone or mail.

Ann Anderson was one of those who got locked out of the Web site and was told she would have to call or write if she wanted a free copy of her credit information.

Which leads to another complaint — that advertising on each agency's free credit report.

Web site may mislead consumers into thinking they must purchase other services — like a credit score — and that they don't need to buy if they just want a free report.

The law that required the agencies to provide the free reports allowed them to advertise their other services, but it is not always clear on the sites that those extras are optional and in some cases may be a waste of money.

For instance, you probably don't need to know your credit score, sometimes called a FICO score, unless you're in the market for a new car, house or other major purchase. Gayer and other

consumer advocates worry that some consumers may not realize they can decline these services and just get the free report.

"You don't have to pay the \$4 or \$5 for a FICO score," Gayer said.

Another problem is that many look-alike Web sites can be confused with the official free credit-report site set up by the three credit-reporting agencies. The official site, at www.annualcreditreport.com, is separate from the credit-reporting agencies' regular Web sites, where consumers must pay to get their credit information, and other sites with similar names, which may just be trying to cash in on the program or may be fronts for credit fraud.

Hector Gonzalez of Orange, Calif., who works as a courier but does investing online, may have been one of those who was confused about the official Web site.

He went to a site that talked about free credit reports, but it required him to subscribe to a credit-tracking service to get his "free" report. He signed up for the \$70-a-year service.

"I know they were just trying to hook me in," Gonzalez said.

That service allowed him to cancel within a month, which he did, so the end he didn't have to pay.

Don Girard of Experian said some of these services may be valuable to consumers, but none is required in order to qualify for a free report.

More importantly, he said, consumers need to make sure they are on the right site for their own protection.

"If you receive something in the mail or a telemarketing call or an e-mail, it is probably fraudulent," Girard said. "Security was very important to us when we designed this, so your reports have to go to the right site." www.annualcreditreport.com.



ments, with some requiring very precise information such as how much your mortgage payment is or the name of your employer in 1985. If your answer is even slightly off, you get rejected.

David Rubinger at Equifax said

Tips for avoiding hassles of getting free reports

Although the three credit-reporting agencies spent a year designing their joint operation for providing free credit reports, some people are having a few problems getting them. Here are some tips to make it easier:

■ When you apply for your report, do it from home during a quiet time when you can give it your full attention. This way to you don't have to worry about some wandering eyes seeing your private information or ears overhearing your conversation.

■ Have your personal records handy to answer specific questions that will be asked, such as the name of the street you used to live on or the name of the institution you refinanced with in 1992 — which you may have to look up.

■ If you make your request online, only use the official Web site, www.annualcreditreport.com, which was set up by the three major credit-reporting agencies and has security measures in place to protect your private information.

■ The Web site and phone lines are available 24 hours a day, so residents can make their requests any time. The program is active in the West and Midwest and will be rolled out June 1 for the South and Sept. 1 for the East.

■ You don't have to order all three reports at once. Some people stagger their requests so they can view their credit over the year. For instance, you could order the Equifax report now, the Experian report in May and the TransUnion report in September. Then in January 2006 you would be eligible for another free report from Equifax. However, if you are planning a major purchase, you should get all three at once.

■ Read the report to make sure everything is accurate.

■ Each agency has an address or number you can call to report errors.

■ If you are disputing an item listed, the credit agency is required to investigate.

■ Inaccurate, incomplete or unver-

ifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. For more information on credit-report disputes, go online to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/credit.

■ If you have any technical problems — you get kicked off the Web site, you never get a report requested by phone or mail, or you only get one of the three reports you request — write to the joint mailing address, Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281, and explain the problem.

■ If you have been the victim of identity theft, you are eligible to get a free credit report from all the agencies even if you've already received your free annual report through the program.

■ If you have complaints about the program, contact the FTC online at www.ftc.gov/credit then click on "File a Complaint" or you can write the FTC Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania

Ave., NW, Room 130, Washington, D.C. 20580. You can also send a written complaint to the official credit-report site at the Atlanta address above.

■ Free credit reports can be obtained once a year by phone, by mail or online from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

Online: www.annualcreditreport.com

Toll-free number: (877) 322-8228

Mailing address: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. It will take up to 15 days to process phone and mail requests.

■ You can also get your report by fax. Get the report. However, if you want to get a credit score or other extras, you may be charged a fee.

Additional reports can be obtained anytime directly from the credit-reporting agencies at prices ranging from \$9 for one report from one agency to \$34.95 for a combined report from all three.

Mary Ann Milbourn

YOUR MONEY

Never too late to save for a fugal retirement

Q: I am a 60-year-old computer programmer who has endured some bumpy years.

A: I have no cash in the bank and no money in retirement funds, which were cashed out along the way. What I do have is a few credit cards, a mortgage and a small auto payment.

I recently landed a job after a period of unemployment that allows me to start seriously paying off the credit cards, but there is no retirement plan.

I know you have good advice about putting pennies away for 40 or 50 years or so they will become big bucks, but I don't think I will have 30 years. And so my question is: Is it too late for me?

A: If your dream is to buy a fancy yacht and sail the world, then, yes, it's probably too late for you to build a retirement nest egg that would support that lifestyle.

If your dream is simply to retire someday, then it may not be too late, as long as you're willing to make difficult choices.

As a guidebook, pick up a copy of "Your Money or Your Life" by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin. This book describes the strategies and lifestyles of people who radically altered their ideas about how much money they need to live. Many retired in their 50s, 40s or even younger or at least switched to part-time work they enjoyed.

These are not folks who drive luxury cars or ski Aspen in the high season. Most

lead extraordinarily frugal lives. But they've unchained themselves from the work-spend cycle that keeps many people stressed and in debt.

You actually have an advantage that younger advocates of this "financial independence" movement lack: Your soon will have a guaranteed source of income. The annual statement you're getting by checking each year from the Social Security Administration will show how much you can expect to get each month if you retire at 62, 65 or 70. If you can ratchet your expenses down to the smallest amount shown (the benefit at age 62), then conceivably you could retire in two years. Most likely, you would want to live on quite the little, and will want a few more working years to pay off your debts, build up your funds and increase your future Social Security benefits.

To get to your goal, you will probably need to make drastic changes in how much you spend now, as well as in retirement. You may need to move to a cheaper area (again, now or in retirement), and you may have to watch your pennies for as long as you live.

That may sound grim, but lots of people live on small, fixed incomes in retirement

and still manage to have happy lives.

Q: I've been working at cleaning up my credit report, but a collection agency keeps changing the date on my oldest debts so they look more recent than they really are.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

These debts are all more than seven years old and should have fallen off my report by now. But they're still there, depressing my credit score. What can I do?

A: The tactic of changing delinquency dates on old debts is called "re-aging," and it's illegal. One collection agency, NCO Group, was recently fined \$1.5 million for re-aging accounts; that is the largest civil penalty ever obtained under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Your first step is to write a letter to the credit bureaus that are reporting the inaccurate information. Make it clear that the collection agency has illegally re-aged the accounts and ask that the accounts be deleted from your files. Send this, and all other correspondence about the matter, by certified mail, return receipt requested. You'll want to keep a good paper trail.

Unfortunately, the bureaus may make only a cursory check with the collection agency, which will probably insist that the

information is accurate. You will then need to dispute the accounts directly with the collector, pointing out that re-aging is illegal and insisting that the agency provide the correct delinquency date to the bureaus.

Debt expert Gerri Detweiler recommends sending copies of your letter to the Federal Trade Commission, your state's attorney general, your U.S. senators and congressional representative and the Better Business Bureau in the city where the collection agency is located.

The collection agency "may decide they don't want any more trouble and resolve it for her," said Detweiler, founder of StopDebtCollectorsCold.com. "If not, she will need an attorney."

It would be nice if you could solve the problem by paying the old debt. But that probably would make matters worse, because the payment would make the delinquencies look even more recent to the FICO credit scoring formula that most lenders use.

Besides, a collection agency shouldn't be rewarded for using such sleazy and illegal tactics.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or at <http://www.lizweston.com>. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week		Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week
High	Low						
10,384.46	9,708.49	Dow Jones Industrials	10,633.07	-112.03	-1.04	-1.39	+3.23
3,889.97	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,757.52	-58.91	-1.54	-1.07	+1.95
7,635.82	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	256.34	-2.47	-0.96	+6.45	+26.61
3,452.08	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	7,264.47	-45.94	-0.63	-2.20	+10.61
539.14	1,597.14	Amex Index	1,483.94	-2.22	-0.15	+4.60	+19.60
2,191.60	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,015.75	-19.23	-0.94	-7.34	+1.97
1,229.11	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,198.07	-6.68	-0.81	-1.97	+5.72
544.29	540.29	S&P MidCap	664.63	-5.83	-0.87	+2.01	+14.99
1,000.00	856.11	Russell 2000	622.92	-3.88	-0.62	-1.30	+6.20
12,108.50	10,356.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,731.16	-47.34	-0.40	-2.18	+6.70

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)					
Name	Vol	Net Chg	Name	Vol	Net Chg	Name	Vol	Net Chg			
GalnMdr	55,013	-25.01	-4.71	SPOR	742,396	115.12	-1.82	Nesdell V01	155,728	36.62	-4.3
United	52,204	2.81	-0.01	SemIRet	103,619	32.69	-3.38	US05 Unph	854,499	1.78	-0.8
United	52,204	2.81	-0.01	Micro	103,619	32.69	-3.38	US05 Unph	854,499	1.78	-0.8
FordM	29,688	11.91	-3.2	US82M20	103,645	124.47	-70	Intel	51,9175	2.54	-0.8
TimeWarn	29,688	11.91	+0.07	SP Fac	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
TimeWarn	29,688	11.91	+0.07	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38
Pfizer	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
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United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
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United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
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United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
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United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
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United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78.96	+11.87
United	29,785	26.05	-2.4	US05 Unph	85,672	29.35	-3.38	RoChMto	58,787	78	

AMEX

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Div	PE	Last	YTD %Chg	Name	NAV	Chg	YTD %Ret	
Alliant Technology		17	71.81	+1	+9.8	Fidelity Invest: GroInc	37.42	-31	-2.1
Amer Holdings		10	80.15	+1	+11.5	Fidelity Invest: GroCo	52.84	-32	-5.7
Computer Dynamics	1.00	25	56.77	-1	-7.1	Fidelity Invest: US	29.19	-32	-1.2
Computer Sciences		14	44.66	+5	+30.8	Amer Century Inv Ark	28.28	-25	-4.1
Engineered Sys Sps		17	76.08	+1	+16.8	Putnam Funds & Grnk p	19.29	-16	-3
General Dynamics	1.60	17	106.40	-2	-6.0	Fidelity Invest: ICB	50.57	-19	-5.0
General Electric		28	25.61	+9	+2.4	Frank/Temple Frnk A: SMCpK	33.43	-38	-1.8
Halliburton	58	29	67.50	+1	+1.8	AIM Investments A: Corp t	22.20	-23	-2.8
Lockheed Martin	1.00	29	67.52	-1	-3.0	Fidelity Invest: US	50.57	-19	-5.0
Airgital Signal		23	38.15	+50	+7.7	Fidelity Invest: Oversea	35.50	+80	+1.6

NASDAQ

Sequa Corp.	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6	Putnam Funds & Galaxy	..	-84	..	+4
Rockwell Intl.	..	24	25.45	..	-1.4	Putnam Funds & Charles P	..	12.76	..	-1
..	..	23	98.19	..	+17.4	AIM investments & Wompa	..	12.68	..	+11
..	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6	Merrill Lynch & BalCap	..	26.66	..	-2
..	..	24	25.45	..	-1.4	Scudder Funds & Intl Fds	..	46.39	..	+16
..	..	23	98.19	..	+17.4	Fidelity Advisor & Dorsey	..	18.02	..	-83
..	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6	Lord Abbett & DeVega	..	19.19	..	-5.1
..	..	24	25.45	..	-1.4	Scudder Funds & Income	..	12.87	..	-10
..	..	23	98.19	..	+17.4	Merrill Lynch & USG&Mtg	..	15.05	..	-13
..	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6	Putnam Funds & Devel	..	19.79	..	+11
..	..	24	25.45	..	-1.4	Putnam Funds & Global	..	11.16	..	+85
..	..	23	98.19	..	+17.4					
..	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6					
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..	..	23	98.19	..	+17.4					
..	..	33	93.46	..	+12.6					
..	..	24	25.45	..	-1.4					
..	..	23	98.19							

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	102.00
Japanese yen (March 19)	-978.00
South Korean won (March 18)	2,375.00
U.S. dollar (March 18)	17,726.00
British pound (March 18)	51.98
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dh)	\$1,941
British pound	\$1,941
Canada (Dollar)	1,202
Denmark (Krone)	5,711
Egypt (Pound)	\$1,337/6.1476
Euro	7,799
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7,799
Indonesia (Rupiah)	16,452
Iceland (Krona)	56,555
Israel (Shekel)	10,452
Japan (Yen)	6,263
Kuwait (Dinar)	6,886
Philippines (Peso)	44,000
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1,709
Singapore (Dollar)	1,003.81
South Korea (Won)	2,375.00
Switzerland (Franc)	35.52
Thailand (Baht)	35.52
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banks. For non-currency exchange rates, see the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic Analysis. All figures are foreign currencies per one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	549.70
New York Mercile	549.70
Silver	11.10
Platinum	1,110.00
Palladium	1,110.00
Rhodium	1,110.00
Ruthenium	1,110.00
Silver	11.10
Platinum	1,110.00
Palladium	1,110.00
Rhodium	1,110.00
Ruthenium	1,110.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.5
Discount rate	3.5
Federal funds market rate	2.62
3-month bill	2.7
30-year bond	4.7

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Job outlook optimistic

MarketWatch
SAN FRANCISCO — Wondering what hiring will look like in the second quarter? Expect more of the same cautious optimism, according to the latest Manpower Employment Outlook survey.

Twenty-one percent of employers plan to hire in the second quarter, the same percentage as planned to hire in the first quarter, and about equal to the 20 percent who planned to hire in the year-to-year survey.

Manpower's seasonally adjusted net employment numbers measure the percentage of firms planning to hire minus those in lending layoffs. It does not measure the number of jobs. Manpower surveys about 16,000 U.S. companies on their hiring plans each quarter.

"The message that is loud and clear is that employers are signaling their intention to continue hiring at the same pace in the second quarter 2005 as they demonstrated in the first quarter of 2005," said Barbara Beck, Manpower's executive vice president for the North America region.

For the past five quarters, including the upcoming second quarter, the net hiring outlook has ranged from 20 percent to 21 percent.

Still, while employers are hiring, they're a bit more prudent than in years past. "They are willing to hire when someone on their team can prove to them they need to hire, as opposed to speculating and hiring in anticipated demand," Beck said. "It truly has become more of a fact-based exercise."

Job seekers eyeing recent employment data may be a bit confused. The labor market created about 262,000 new jobs in February, the largest monthly increase since October, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

At the same time, the unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent last month from 5.4 percent in January.

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STRIPES

Autos for Sale
- Okinawa 152

ED: Very clean and dependable.
Power window, power break,
P/M, A/C cold, very good tires,
clean interior, AM/FM Cassette.
JCI 5/05, asking \$1200 OBO
Call Brian @ 634-4240/2329 or
(CP)-0907-587-5047.

Kadena - 1990 Toyota Chaser -
Excellent, Shape, Well Maintained,
New Tires with road

Kadena - 1994 Mitsubishi
green w/gray interior. U
very clean, and well m
Need to sell to a
bigger. \$1150 OBO
633-9232

Kadena - 1994 Toyota
ED, automatic, dark gre
windows, A/C, CD play

Autos for Sale
- Okinawa 152

Kadena - 1994 Mitsubishi RVR, green w/gray interior. Low miles, very clean, and well maintained. Need to sell to get something bigger. \$1500 OBO call now 633-9232

Kadena - 1994 Toyota Carina, Ed, automatic, dark green, tinted windows, AC, CD player, \$2000

Autos for Sale
- Okinawa 152

Kadena - 95 RAV-4 2dr black
awesome, condition, new
brakes, CD-stereo, fog lights
fantastic gas mileage, 200
horsepower, great beach buggy.
Only \$3,200 call Mike at
633-3057 leave message.

Kadena - 95 Toyota ED - White,
JCI due Feb 07, 4 door, power
windows, power locks. New tires

Cars for Sale	
Okinawa	152

okinawa-1995 Mitsubishi Delia, white, 4wd, new belts, new batteries, ice cold, freshly recharged A/C, Pioneer CD player, seats 8, great for big families or visiting relatives, runs great, tinted windows, only \$3500 obo.

Cars for Sale	152
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dena, Okinawa - Celica Cured - Lowering springs new used, for 1990-1998 models, provides 1-2 inch drop. \$150 or

to Parts	180	B
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YO, Japan • Light-wood
nt crib for sale. No mattress.
reat shape. Asking \$50. Can
ail photo. Can bring to base.
Marc at 080-5467-6867 or
2@k08.itscom.net.

cles	220	Cel
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Business Opportunities 262

ular Phones	280
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• 19" Planar LCD Monitor: PL191M, 1280x1024 resolution, built-in speakers, USB hub, and DVI input. For one year and is perfect

Business opportunities	262	net Tax tor,
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Resolution, built-in speakers, built-in USB hub, and DVI input. Used for one year and is perfect condition. \$425. Call or email Chris at DSN 764-5274 or ob12345@komet.net

STARS AND STRIPES

Jobs Offered 630

Vodafone, the world's leading cell phone company, seeks qualified, self-motivated people for the following positions in a rapidly growing military sales organization:



Sales and Operations Manager

Location:

- Tokyo headquarters (fluent Japanese required)

Retail Sales Manager

Locations:

- Okinawa • Yokota • Misawa
- Camp Foster
- Camp Kinser

Retail Sales Associates

Locations:

- Okinawa • Atsugi • Yokota
- Camp Foster • New Sanno Hotel • Yokosuka
- Camp Kinser • Iwakuni • Sasebo
- Kadena • Misawa • Camp Zama

Interested candidates should send an English resume with cover letter identifying the desired position to brent.bosom@vodafone.com or fax 03-6403-2948

Jobs Offered 630



MANTECH OPMAS-E

Vacancies / Maintenance Department

Specialist Automated Test Equipment (TESA)

Requirement 44618R

LOCATION: Manheim
Must have eight years experience performing the highest level of depot repair of communications systems equipment, of which will be developing computer programs used with ATE equipment and one year experience using computers in the Windows NT or IBM environments. Must have an Associate degree in Electronics or Communications or have completed 36 months of advance U.S. military or civilian training in digital electronics of which 24 months must be with a U.S. military advanced training facility.

Sr. Spec. C-E Maintenance (TESA)

Requirement 16727BR

LOCATION: Manheim
The applicant must have eight years experience performing the highest level of depot repair on digital microwave radio system/networking, an Associate degree in Electronics Technology or Computer Science degree, and have completed 36 months of advanced military or equivalent civilian training in this field. Individual performs the highest level of repair support from system down to component level troubleshooting major equipment overhauls or complete rebuild of parts, assemblies, subassemblies, and end items of microwave communications line-of-sight radio equipment and synchronous optical network (SONET). Responsibilities include but are not limited to inspecting, troubleshooting, repairing, modifying, reworking, overhauling, certifying, and calibrating complex and intricate microwave equipment.

All applicants must be U.S. citizens, qualify or currently hold a U.S. security clearance, and must be able to qualify for and operate Government provided flight vehicles.

Applicants should visit ManTech's website at www.manitech.com employment opportunities for additional information on the specified vacancy. If applicants then enter their resume on the electronic system and notify carol.maninger@manitech.com or bill.mead@manitech.com confirming the request for consideration, specify position title and Requirement # on subject line.

ManTech is an EO/AAE employer, M/F/D/V urged to apply.

Outdoor Living 775

Kadena, Okinawa • RYOBRI
Kadena, Okinawa • Set of white
teak furniture for sale. Items
available immediately.
Price \$198. Call BK • Asking
\$750 • Call 633-1519 or email
kadena@japcom.com

Outdoor Living 775

Kadena, Okinawa • Set of white
teak furniture for sale. Items
available immediately.
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\$750 • Call 633-1519 or email
kadena@japcom.com

Outdoor Living 775

Kadena, Okinawa • Set of white
teak furniture for sale. Items
available immediately.
Price \$198. Call BK • Asking
\$750 • Call 633-1519 or email
kadena@japcom.com

Pets 620

Foster • Free one year old
terrier-female. Very smart,
loving, All color, current,
good microchip, very loving
girl. Give to kind dog to live
agreement. Please email
at kabobob@japcom.com

Foster • Hello my name is
Benny. I'm a young male, I
live in a good home. Easter is
my best friend. And guess what
I'm litter box trained. 645-6249.

Foster • Okinawa • Five to a
good home. 7 month old, male
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College educates students on wine, beer

Friday gatherings emphasize quality over quantity

BY CLARKE CANFIELD
The Associated Press

WATERVILLE, Maine — Josh Kahn swirls the ruby-red wine in his wineglass, puts it up to his nose and breathes in deeply. He watches how the libation, a 2002 Fairview shiraz from South Africa, clings to the inside of the glass before taking a sip.

This isn't a wine tasting at a local wine shop. Rather, Kahn is a senior at Colby College, a private liberal arts college where students 21 and older get together on Friday nights in a school cafeteria to learn about and drink beer and wine.

The get-togethers are intended to teach students how to imbibe in moderation and how to imbibe well. The emphasis is on savor, not swirl.

Seated next to Kahn on a recent night was Maureen Sherry of Massachusetts, who was drinking a sauvignon blanc. The gatherings have taught her to not be intimidated by wine.

"I always thought I hated wine. But now I realize that what I hated were the \$3 bottles of wine I bought at the grocery store," she said.

The drinks-with-supper soirees on the 1,800-student campus have been well re-



Katie Lucas, left, speaks with Audrey Blanchette during dinner with wine at a Colby College dining hall in Waterville, Maine. The college has begun a program of serving wine and beer to students 21 and older to educate them about responsible drinking.

ceived, but also have met disapproval at a time when colleges and universities nationwide have grappled with ways to deal with problem drinking among students.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism says drinking by college students contributes to an estimated 1,400 student deaths each year, along with 500,000 injuries and 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape.

Colby students have had their share of al-

cohol-related incidents, too. Waterville police this month issued summons to 14 students for possession of alcohol by a minor or displaying a fake ID. Three students were taken to a hospital after drinking too much, according to Police Chief John Morris.

Henry Wechsler, director of Colby College Alcohol Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health, doesn't think colleges should be in the business of providing alcohol to stu-

dents. Students already have plenty of drinking opportunities at fraternities, on-campus pubs, parties and at bars near campus that serve "supersized portions" of alcohol, he said.

"This free flow of alcohol is one of the problems around binge drinking," Wechsler said. "It's ironic that giving more alcohol should solve the problem."

Colby officials say the program is just one component of the college's alcohol education efforts.

"We've gotten overwhelmingly positive responses," said Janice Kassman, dean of students. "There are some who say the college should take a just-say-no approach, but I don't think that's realistic."

It was the notion that college life seemed to include just two types of alcohol consumption — too much or none at all — that prompted Catherine Welch, the student government president, to suggest the wine and beer get-togethers to Kassman.

Welch, a senior from Connecticut, thought there should be a middle ground where students could enjoy a nice glass of wine or beer with a meal in a low-key setting. And so, with the OK from college administrators, the program was launched.

It's unknown whether Colby's program will affect students' drinking habits. Ralph Hingsen, a Boston University professor who works at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said he isn't aware of any scientific research on undertakings like Colby's.

"If they're going to do this program, I hope they'll try to do some kind of assessment of what kind of impact it has," he said.



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Houston house won't be served last call

Beer can wonder in disrepair to be restored thanks to \$125,000 grant

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — An art endowment will keep a Houston home decorated with thousands of flattened beer cans from facing its last call.

Beer-lover John Milkovich attached the cans to his house over a 20-year period as an alternative to more traditional home repair.

He also made beer can fences and garlands to hang from his roof.

The home was becoming a nationally celebrated folk-art site when the Southern Pacific upholsterer died in 1988 at 75, but has suffered years of decline. Now, with a \$125,000 Houston Endowment grant to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, efforts to restore the home are on the fast track.

The house will be open for tours after repair and restoration is complete, said Susanne Theis, executive director of the Orange Show, which bought the house in 2001.

"The Beer Can House represents the sort of idiosyncratic individualism that Houstonians and Texans pride themselves on,"

said Emily Todd, the endowment's grant officer.

Family members said Milkovich started covering his house with flattened beer cans so he wouldn't have to paint. He secretly liked the notice his home received but seemed surprised that it was thought of as a work of art.

The Orange Show is looking for an architect to trace the home's evolution so it can be represented at its artistic peak. The home will then be cleaned, repaired and restored.

"Some things have just been lost over time," Theis said.

An arch of beer-can tops and bottoms once reached across the driveway and there once was a curtain of pop tops on the south side of the home.

The house is generally in good repair, but steel parts of the structure have rusted and aluminum parts have oxidized.

Can collectors have already donated vintage cans to help in the restoration, and brewers may be asked to reproduce discontinued cans.

There are plans to install lighting to brighten up the fence and to add a vine-covered trellis to replace trees that were removed.



An art endowment will keep the Beer Can House in Houston decorated with thousands of flattened beer cans from facing last call. Beer lover John Milkovich attached the cans to his house over a 20-year period as an alternative to more traditional home repair.



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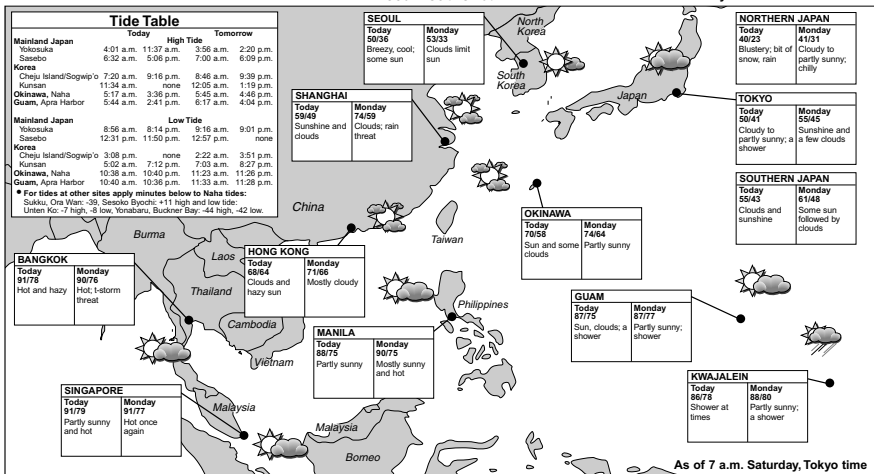
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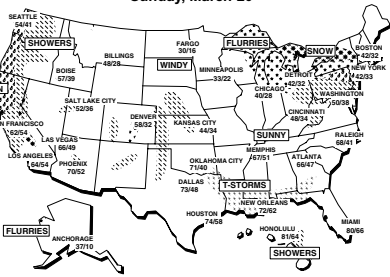
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Tuesday: Rain, high 62, low 56. Wednesday: Cloudy, high 60, low 44.	KADENA Tuesday: Rain, high 74, low 64. Wednesday: Rain, high 68, low 55.	SEOUL Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 48, low 27. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 39, low 18.	MANILA Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 90, low 75. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 92, low 72.	HAGATNA Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77. Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 75.
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Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	59/36	Los Angeles	64/54
Amarillo	61/34	Little Rock	69/47
Anchorage	38/21	Louisville	63/43
Asheville	54/31	Miami	79/56
Baltimore	57/34	Milwaukee	38/32
Birmingham	60/41	Nashville	61/42
Bismarck	32/17	New York	49/34
Boise	54/38	Omaha	52/25
Boston	45/28	Orlando	66/46
Brownsville	81/64	Philadelphia	53/32
Buffalo	38/26	Phoenix	73/53
Burlington	38/20	Pittsburgh	51/32
Charleston, SC	56/41	Portland, OR	57/42
Charlotte	59/36	Portland, ME	43/22
Cleveland	44/32	Salt Lake City	55/36
Columbus, OH	59/36	St. Louis	65/36
Duluth	29/15	San Antonio	75/54
El Paso	71/46	San Diego	66/56
Hartford	49/24	San Juan	90/72
Helena	36/18	Tampa	68/49
Indianapolis	60/38	Tulsa	68/35
Jacksonville	57/39	Washington, DC	59/38
Kansas City	62/27	Wichita	62/31

Sunday, March 20



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will bring rain to parts of the East Coast Sunday from Pennsylvania south to North Carolina with a few thunderstorms back along the Gulf Coast. Some snow will be around on the northern edge of this system from Michigan across Upper New York and into New England. Patchy fog across South Texas in the morning. Another storm system across the northern Rockies will bring gusty winds along with snow. A few showers will cross Arizona. A storm along the West Coast will bring rain from Washington to California with snow across the Cascades and Sierra. The storm across the Rockies will dive into the Deep South on Monday bringing showers and thunderstorms across Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Unsettled weather will be across the West with dry weather in the East.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/78	Los Angeles	64/54
Beijing	58/36	Kadena AB	70/58
Camp Casey	52/37	Kusan AB	52/40
Christchurch	65/51	Kwajalein	86/78
Diego Garcia	86/77	Manila	88/75
Hagatna	87/75	Misawa AB	43/26
Hanoi	73/34	Osan	52/38
Hong Kong	68/64	Perth	74/62
Honolulu	81/64	Pusan	52/43

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/72	Budapest	41/26	Kabul	83/35
Athens	66/49	Buenos Aires	81/61	Kiev	88/64
Auckland	74/60	Cairo	83/55	Kuwait	81/59
Baghdad	82/58	Cancun	83/68	London	59/50
Barbados	90/71	Cape Town	81/63	Madrid	60/46
Barcelona	63/50	Geneva	66/37	Mexico City	77/60
Berlin	40/26	Istanbul	41/26	Montreal	38/22
Bermuda	62/55	Jerusalem	69/50	Mogadishu	90/75
Brussels	62/48	Johannesburg	74/55	Moscow	12/1
				Warsaw	32/22



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Excerpts from Thursday's hearing on steroids in Major League Baseball:



"I have never taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs. I have never injected myself or had anyone inject me with anything. I have not broken the laws of the United States or the laws of the Dominican Republic. I have been tested as recently as 2004 and I am clean." — **Sammy Sosa** of the Baltimore Orioles. His lawyer read his prepared testimony.



"Like I said before, I've never taken it. So if you want to play under the rules of the Olympics, I welcome it." — **Rafael Palmeiro** of the Baltimore Orioles, asked if stricter drug testing rules, such as those for Olympic athletes, should extend to baseball.



"What I'm hearing is that I'm the only person in the major leagues who used steroids." — **Jose Canseco**, who has acknowledged using steroids during a career in which he hit 462 home runs. He also wrote a best-selling book in which he alleged Mark McGwire and other major leaguers used steroids.



"The allegations made in that book, the attempts to smear the names of players both past and present, having been made by one who for years vehemently denied steroid use, should be seen for what they are: an attempt to make money at the expense of others." — **Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling**, referring to Canseco's book.



"So that there is no misunderstanding from my perspective, I will suspend any player who tests positive for an illegal steroid. There will be no exceptions. The (players) union is aware of that and they accept it." — **Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig**.

Players' heroics will long be questioned

WASHINGTON Just to get a sense of proportion concerning what happened on Capitol Hill on Thursday, imagine that we could turn back time 70 years. Concoct a scene in the 1930s in which Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Fox and Mel Ott are subpoenaed to testify before Congress because they are suspected of or had admitted to massive cheating throughout their careers, which would call all their records and heroics into question.

To add diabolical spice, imagine that Ruth had confessed his sins and was accusing Gehrig of doing the fraud — with the Babe as a witness. Or vice versa, that the Iron Horse was calling all the Babe's achievements a sham. After all, they were the Bash Brothers of the Roaring Twenties, winning pennants, greeting each other at home plate but barely maintaining civil relations.

Thomas Boswell



When the indelible days and torturous portraits from baseball history are described and retold, the saga of Mark McGwire, Rafael Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa and the man who accused them all, Jose Canseco, will grow in significance, depth, sadness and moral complexity. Our first impressions will almost certainly be revised by time. It is even possible that, within a few years, depending upon how many revelations from the Steroid Age finally become public, we could even see one of these men charged with perjury or contempt of Congress.

The first image of this day will always be McGwire, the popular Big Mac who carried himself with perfect grace and generosity when he hit 70 home runs in '98, as he stammered, composed himself, then plowed forward, through a brief but tortuous prepared testimony. How could anyone avoid the thought that, perhaps, he behaved so deferentially toward Rogers' family because he knew that a darker truth lay behind his ability to erase Maris from the record book.

Let's deconstruct. Did McGwire feel pressure to perform at the highest level in a sport that did not test for steroids, virtually winked at the practice and, in particular, longed for McGwire to hit more than 61 home runs? After all, in the late 1990s baseball desperately hoped the long ball would reclaim fans alienated by the strike that erased the 1994 World Series.

"I will use whatever influence and popularity I have," said McGwire, "to encourage young athletes from taking any drug that is not recommended by a doctor. What I will not do, however, is participate in naming names and implicating my friends and teammates.... Nor do I intend to dignify Mr. Canseco's book. It should be enough to consider



Mark McGwire, who broke Rogers Maris' season record of 61 home runs when he hit 70 in 1998, said "I'm not here to talk about the past. I'm here to be positive about this subject" during a hearing on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

the source.

"Asking me, or any other player, to answer questions about who took steroids in front of television cameras will not solve this problem," said McGwire, the committee's thumbscrews all but showing.

"If a player answers, 'No,' he simply will not be believed. If he answers, 'Yes,' he risks public scorn and endless government investigations." If McGwire's testimony is narrowly and literally true, then he is one of the most wronged men in the history of American sport and the House Government Reform Committee has indeed hunted for an innocent witch and burned her. The far more likely case is that the verdict in the bleachers from coast to coast will be the correct one: that McGwire gave a veiled confession in the tradition of Jason Giambi's endless apologies for doing something he never named.

While McGwire's day was pure theater, the drama be-

tween Canseco and Palmeiro lay just below the surface but will remain a debate for many a long night. Canseco wrote in his tell-all book that he had introduced Palmeiro to steroids, and during a 60 Minutes interview Canseco said that he had injected Palmeiro when they were with the Rangers. No accusation can be more direct. And no denial could be more categorical than Palmeiro's repeated assertions that he had never taken steroids in any form anywhere at any time. "Period."

Either Canseco is the most vicious and deliberate slanderer in baseball history (name anything that would even come close) or Palmeiro has lied under oath to a congressional committee. There's no third choice. One is a villain. That's why it helps to have an excellent reputation and hurts to have an atrocious one. The committee, by its tone, clearly accepted Palmeiro's word and treated him as though he had conclusively cleared his name when, in fact, he'd merely pleaded innocence.

For the next two or three years, at the least, we can expect that the cockroaches of these steroid days will continue to scurry around baseball's kitchen, just as the criminal misdeeds of Wall Street and corporate America still fill our headlines years after the bankruptcies of Enron and WorldCom.

And what of Sosa? He spoke in a soft voice. He brought an interpreter and a lawyer who read his statement for him despite the fact that those of us who know him from the baseball beat realize that he is perfectly fluent in English. That Sosa statement was a 99.9 percent total denial of any use of steroids. However, cynics may parse his words in search of legal loopholes.

"I have never taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs. I have never injected myself or had anyone inject me with anything. I have not broken the laws of the United States or the laws of the Dominican Republic," Sosa's statement read. "I have been tested as recently as 2004 and I am clean."

It is an awful world we live in. Within minutes of the statement's dissemination a veteran baseball writer said, "So, I guess that doesn't quite cover taking steroids orally if they were prescribed legally by a Dominican doctor."

Thanks to the devious tales from the world of BALCO, we've all learned to look for the weasel word, the phrase that doesn't quite mean what it says. Endemic bad behavior has this contaminating effect on the whole culture that it infects. Trust dies. Doubt flourishes.

Lies grow strong legs.

And someone as discredited as Canseco can completely change his view on steroids in a blink. In his book, he champions steroids for 200 pages, even saying that they could help people live to be 120.

Before Congress, he denounced them. Grilled on this perfunctory flip-flop, Canseco meekly said, "I'm completely turned around." How convenient.

This day and all its twist of plot and character will not be forgotten in baseball for decades.

In fact, the cautionary scene of four of the game's greatest sluggers, all sitting at the same table with their legacy and their honor laid out before them, has barely begun to be digested.

Thomas Boswell is a columnist for the Washington Post.

Giambi works out, doesn't tune in testimony

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi lifted weights instead of watching his fellow players weather questions about steroids during Thursday's congressional hearing.

The New York Yankees slugger woke up at 10 a.m. — the same time testimony began in front of the House Government Reform Committee in Washington — and went straight to the gym at the team's facility in Tampa, Fla.

"I haven't kept up with it," Giambi said. "I wanted to get my workout in."

Giambi testified in 2003 to a San Francisco grand jury investigating a steroid-distribution ring and was excused on Tuesday from making the trip to Washington. The San Francisco Chronicle reported in December that he acknowledged using steroids.

Asked if it was a bad day for baseball, Steinbrenner said: "Not a good one so far."

San Diego pitcher Adam Eaton, the team's players representative, did watch and wasn't impressed with the legislators' questioning.

"I think now that everybody's had their say, to some degree, it sounds like everyone is spinning their wheels, just passing time," Eaton said. "There's nothing coming out of this other than the attention, obviously."

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Curt Schilling were asked whether baseball should adapt two-year bans for first-time violations, similar to Olympic policy.

"I think we're kind of jumping the gun a little bit on saying we should go to the extreme of the Olympic two-year ban," Eaton

Spring training

said. "Obviously if they get caught a second time it's a lifetime ban. We're in an entertaining business. The Olympics are put up on a pedestal of purity."

Nearly all of the spring training docket in Florida was rained out on Thursday. The unexpected downtime didn't entice other players to watch the hearings, though.

"I didn't have the TV on today," Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina said. "I don't know what's going to come out of it. Whether I watch it or I don't doesn't change what's happening there."

About 10 members of the Boston Red Sox were in their clubhouse when the hearing started and none were watching even though it was on the TV. Some were eating, others filling in NCAA brackets, others reading the newspaper.

At least one player used the day off to watch. In a crowded New York Mets clubhouse, Mike Piazza — an avid viewer of C-SPAN — caught a few moments of the steroid hearings and said he was interested in watching future talks.

Piazza feels the issue is the "olive branch" between the players' union and management, and that he hopes the negative attention doesn't tarnish the sport with fans.

"I hope what's not diminished is the perception of the skill it

...takes to hit a 95 mile-per-hour fastball or throw a no-hitter," he said.

NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly tuned in after the end of a bargaining session with the NHL players' association. The owners and players are still trying to settle on a collective bargaining agreement, though a drug policy



Chicago Cubs pitcher Greg Maddux works against the Oakland Athletics on Thursday in Phoenix. Maddux won his first game of spring training.

doesn't appear to be a stumbling block.

In exhibition games:

Giants 7, Rangers 5: At Surprise, Ariz., Kenny Rogers, coming off a career-high 18 victories last season, gave up six runs and 10 hits in 3²/₃ innings for the Rangers. Rogers, who had pitched just once this spring, gave up a run in one inning when he started the opener March 3 against Kansas City.

Cubs 6, Athletics 4: At Phoenix, Greg Maddux picked up his first victory of the spring despite allowing four runs and seven hits with a walk and four strikeouts in five innings. Before the game, Cubs manager Dusty Baker suggested Maddux is a strong possibility to start on Opening Day.

with Mark Prior and Kerry Wood sidelined by injuries.

Padres 16, Rockies (ss) 7: At Peoria, Ariz., it was quite an afternoon for Ryan Klesko and Eric Young. Klesko looked like his former self, driving in six of San Diego's first seven runs with two homers and a single.

Young, signed by the Padres as

a free agent in December, got to play in the same game with his 19-year-old son, Eric Jr., a Rockies farmhand brought up specifically for this game to play second base against his father's team.

Royals 5, Angels 3: At Tempe, Ariz., Mike Sweeney had three hits and Emil Brown drove in two runs to lead Kansas City past Los Angeles.

Brown and Eli Marrero had two hits apiece and Angel Berroa homered for Kansas City, which finished with 14 hits. Steve Finley had two hits and two RBIs for the Angels.

Diamondbacks (ss) 13, Brewers 10: At Tucson, Ariz., Alan Zinter hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning for the Arizona split squad.

Troy Glaus was 2-for-3 with a double, homer and four RBIs. The Diamondbacks' new third baseman is 10-for-21 — a .476 average — with five extra-base hits and 12 RBIs in nine games.

The Diamondbacks finished with 19 hits, Milwaukee 17.

Diamondbacks (ss) 5, Rockies (ss) 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Chad Tracy had two hits and three RBIs and Michael Gosling pitched four scoreless innings to lead Arizona in a matchup of split-squad teams.

Devil Rays 7, Phillies 3: At Clearwater, Fla., Eduardo Perez hit a three-run homer and Josh Phelps, Shane Halter and Jason Pridie had three hits apiece for Tampa Bay.

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An advertisement for 800HighTech.com. The central focus is a silver laptop and a white spiral-bound notebook resting on it. The background is black with repeating white text "No Credit, Bad Credit, No Problem." in a circular pattern. In the upper right, there's a testimonial from "Military Personnel" stating "No Credit; OK". Below the products, the word "Notebooks" is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Underneath it, the phrase "Zero Down,*100% financed" appears in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom center, the website "800HighTech.com" is displayed in white text on a black rectangular background. A small mouse cursor icon points at the bottom right corner of the website address box.

All-navy veteran passing on 'old school' play to Seahawks

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — In the ripe old age of 40, Gerry Turner looks like he could still suit up and rack up 30 points a game, sink five three-pointers, maybe even throw a couple of dunks for his Yokosuka Seahawks of Japan.

But as well conditioned as the former All-Navy swingman and three-time Navy Western Pacific Regional Tournament MVP might be, he'd rather spend his time mentoring than playing.

"My days are over," said the chief petty officer from Milwaukee who's on his third tour to Japan, assigned to Yokosuka Naval Base.

Speaking before a Friday play-off game during last week's March Madness Open Tournament, Turner said: "It's time for me to teach things I've learned, such as working together and the benefits from it."

Turner, who's coached the Seahawks for the past two seasons, sounds "old school" — and his players to a man agree he is — it's because he enjoyed his days of playing glory during an era when basketball idols carried names like Magic, Larry and Michael.

He played for arguably the Pacific's best company level team, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka. Suiing up alongside center James Little, guards Mike Henry and Carlos Jones and power forward Vince Wray, the Eagles dominated the WestPac tournament, winning it from 1989-91, with Turner as MVP.

Subdued and introverted, Turner never sought individual glory, instead passing on the credit to the team, which he insists still stands as the most important part of what he feels has become an individual game, whether it be the NBA, the college game or at the military level.

"Back then, we won together. I played hard," he said. "You could score four points, but if you did the right things, your team would win. Today, players are selfish. You come off the floor and say, 'Hey, I scored 30 points and I made a dunk!' But your team lost the game."

It's a mentality, he says, that's fueled by the likes of Allen Iverson, Stephen Marbury and Ron Artest, who appear to be more about themselves than playing the game, and fueled by programs such as ESPN SportsCenter.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Michael Gay (13) of Japan's Yokosuka Seahawks looks to pass over Jermame Lee of Guam-based USS Frank Cable during Friday's double-elimination playoff game in the March Madness Open Basketball Tournament at Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Gay scored 15 points and Yokosuka won 79-76.

"I don't like to see that stuff," Turner said of things such as monster jams, crossover dribbles, taunting and fights in the stands. "It's ruining the game. You see it out there. The kids come out to play and a lot of their fundamentals are gone."

Turner grew up idolizing guys such as Bobby Jones of Philadelphia 76ers and Denver Nuggets fame, unselfish workaday players. It's something he wishes he could see more of in military ball.

"I stress basic fundamentals," he said. "Play hard. Basic old-school ball still wins games. In high school, the teams that gave us the worst time were the ones who played fundamental ball and didn't make mistakes."

To talk to his players, he would think Turner on occasion would like to get out on the floor and show his charges what he tells them.

"Once you have basketball in your blood, it stays with you," said Yokosuka's three-point specialist Henry "Skinny" Grays. "Turner can be hard on his players, Grays said, "but we all learn a lot from him."

"He's got some tricks. Little things, calling out the picks, court awareness, boxing out, stuff you forget about. He stresses going all out for 40 minutes and close the games out as a team. Stop being selfish. Pass the ball. Give it up."

Turner hopes that by teaching "old-school" basics to his players, they in turn will pass it on to those who come after.

"No matter where we finish here, hopefully the guys will get something out of it and share it with a younger guy later on, as people did with me and as I'm doing with them," Turner said.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@stripes.osd.mil

Local scoreboard

Intersevice basketball

2003 March Madness Open Tournament
At Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex,
Andersen Air Force Base, Guam
Double-elimination playoffs

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Giants sign Burress

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Placido Burress ended his puzzling foray into free agency with the same team that didn't want him a week ago.

Sports briefs

The free agent wide receiver officially joined the New York Giants on Friday, a week after rejecting an offer from the team. He then fired agent Michael Harrison and signed with Drew Rosenhaus, who renewed negotiations.

The six-year, \$25 million contract was reached Thursday, and includes an \$8 million signing bonus, a football source told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The speedy former Pittsburgh Steelers receiver met with the Giants last week and Harrison negotiated the same deal. But Burress turned it down, and New York pulled its offer from the table.

"In free agency, when a player leaves our facility, we withdraw the offer and go on to other things," Giants general manager Ernie Accorsi said in a statement. But Burress liked the situation in New York enough to work out a deal. He will be a prime target for quarterback Eli Manning.

Having the option to move around and be able to go in motion and create some one-on-one matchups, that's an opportunity that I've been waiting for," Burress said. "I believe I can go out and play at a level with some of the best receivers in this game."

Burress, 6-foot-5 and 226 pounds, had 35 catches for 698 yards and five touchdowns during an injury-plagued campaign last season.

"He is a guy who has an imposing physical presence. And because he does have the ability to be a long-ball threat, he is a guy that will force defenses to pay particular attention to where he is," coach Tom Coughlin said.

Eagles' Adams gets new deal

PHILADELPHIA — Linebacker Keith Adams agreed to a one-year contract Friday with the Eagles following a season in which his career-high 54 tackles helped Philadelphia reach the Super Bowl.

Adams also is a key player on special teams whose value rose after he played well as a starter

filling in for Mark Simoneau in the playoffs.

Steelers save cap money

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers restructured the contract of left tackle Marvel Smith on Friday to free up \$2.55 million in salary cap space.

Smith will be paid the minimum-wage base salary of \$540,000 in 2005 instead of the \$3.95 million in salary he had been due. The remaining \$3.4 million was paid to Smith this week as a signing bonus.

Man pleads guilty to making threats in Bryant case

DENVER — A California man pleaded guilty Friday to threatening the prosecutor and the alleged victim in the rape case against Kobe Bryant.

Cedric Augustine, 38, of the Los Angeles area, could get up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Augustine pleaded guilty to making interstate threats. In exchange, federal prosecutors dropped two dozen other charges, including attempted extortion and threatening to use fire or explosives.

Augustine, who appeared to be crying at times, admitted that he called Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert in 2003 and threatened his life and that of the 20-year-old Colorado woman who accused the basketball star of rape.

The criminal charges against Bryant were dropped in September after the woman said she no longer wanted to go forward with the case. She and the Los Angeles Lakers star announced March 2 they had agreed to an undisclosed settlement in her civil suit.

Bryant denied assaulting the woman and said they had consensual sex.

Sprinters Kenteris, Thanou cleared by Greek officials

ATHENS, Greece — Sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou were cleared by Greek sports officials Friday of evading pre-Olympic drug tests.

The ruling by the Greek Athletics Federation came after two months of hearings into a scandal that deeply embarrassed the hosts of last summer's Athens Olympics. The sprinters had faced possible two-year bans if found guilty.



WR Placido Burress signed a six-year, \$25 million deal with the New York Giants that includes an \$8 million signing bonus.

Their coach, Christos Tzekos, was blamed for the athletes' missed tests and was suspended for four years. He was cleared of separate accusations of distributing banned substances.

Costas Panagoulis, head of the five-member sports panel, said the sprinters were exonerated by a 4-1 vote.

Cardinals' Sanders sidelined indefinitely with appendicitis

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders will be sidelined indefinitely after being diagnosed with appendicitis Thursday.

The Cardinals said Sanders, 37, was scheduled to have an appendectomy later Thursday night. The veteran outfielder reported to camp in the morning and complained of stomach pain. He was evaluated by the team's medical staff and diagnosed with acute appendicitis.

Agassi withdraws from match against Hewitt in Calif.

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — When his highly anticipated match against Lleyton Hewitt was scheduled to begin, Andre Agassi instead stood before fans and apologized for having to pull out.

Agassi, who turns 35 next month, was unable to take the court for the first time in his storied career — 1,092 matches. He could not play in the Pacific Life Open quarterfinal on Friday because of a sore and swollen toe.

Injuries had forced him to pull out in the past before tournaments began, and he has had to retire during matches. But he had never failed to at least start playing when he was scheduled.

Ogilvie takes early lead in Bay Hill Invitational

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Joe Ogilvie started in the rain and finished in the cold, a first round in the Bay Hill Invitational that took him more than 24 hours to complete but left him atop the leader board Friday morning.

Whether he stays there won't be determined until the other 60 players finish in the afternoon in a tournament that so far has featured odd weather and strange doings on the course.

Ogilvie, coming off a playoff loss at the Honda Classic, finished with a 4-under 68 and had a one-shot lead over Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland among the early starters. Sergio Garcia, Kenny Perry and Mark Calacavencia were among those at 2-under 70.

Tiger Woods looked as if he might be among the leaders until a 13th hole birdie putt on the 13th hole caught the right edge of the cup and spun away. He was 3 under at the time and seemingly in control. But Woods had to make a 6-footer for par on the 18th to avoid a bogey-bogey finish. He wound up with a 71.

Ernie Els, joining Woods in the marquee group at Bay Hill, was five shots behind him after an ugly bogey on the par-5 12th. He made up those five shots in five holes, but not before the South African was so disgusted with his putting that he flung his ball into the water on the 13th. He also shot 71.

U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen hit two balls out of bounds — one on Thursday, one on Friday — in his first round and wound up with a 78. Goosen was so sporadic that he didn't hit a par 5 in regulation until the last one, No. 16, and even then just barely.

His second shot started to roll into the water until it stopped in the wet grass.

The most bizarre moment belonged to Mark Hensley. He was 9 over for his round when he hit out of bounds on the 18th. Instead of reloading, he packed it in. The Aussie walked the rest of the hole with Andre Stolz and Mike Weir without hitting another shot, and was disqualified for not finishing the 18th hole.

Golf roundup

The PGA Tour has been packed with great tournaments and quality winners, although Weather is emerging as a theme every bit as prominent as Woods, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh dominating early.

When nearly 2 inches of rain fell Thursday afternoon that suspended the first round after just three hours, it marked the sixth tour event this year where a round was halted by weather.

Worse than the rain, temperatures were in the mid-40s when the early starters returned to resume the first round.

The lost time will lead to a long finish.

The 36-hole cut will not be made until Saturday afternoon.

Groupings for the final round will not be determined until late Sunday morning, and threesome will go off both tees the rest of the week.

"I could have gone 4 or 5 under par, but it could have been worse," Woods said. "I could have bogeyed the last hole. At least I gave myself something positive going into my 7:10 tee time."

Sorenstam one back in Safeway International

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Defending champion Annika Sorenstam shot a 6-under 66 on Thursday to finish a stroke behind first-round leaders Lorena Ochoa and Si-wai Lim in the Safeway International, while Michelle Wie was in danger of missing the cut after a 73.

Sorenstam won her 57th LPGA Tour title two weeks ago weeks ago in Mexico in her season debut, her third straight victory dating to last year. The 15-year-old Wie is coming off a second-place tie in the season-opening SBS Open in Hawaii.

Julie Inkster matched Sorenstam at 66, Karen Stupples had a 67, and Soo-Yun Kang, Sung Ah Yim and Moira Dunn shot 68s. Paula Creamer, Beth Daniel, Candie Kung, Natalie Gulbis, Marcy Hart, Dawn Co-Jones, Karrie Webb and Kim Williams had 69s.

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Orien Greene turns up when its tourney time

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Louisiana-Lafayette guard Orien Greene is making his fourth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament. More impressive is that he's done it with two schools.

Greene made his first two trips with Florida before transferring to the 13th-seeded Ragin' Cajuns, who play fourth-seeded Louisville on Friday night.

Coincidentally, Greene's old team also was sent to Nashville in the NCAA pod system even though the Cajuns are in the Albuquerque Regional, while Florida is in the Syracuse Regional.

"Oh yeah, it's pretty ironic they (are) out there like that," Greene said.

Before transferring, Greene was Florida's Mr. Basketball at Gainesville High School, played in every game for the Gators as a freshman, and started in 30 games as a sophomore.

He said he has changed since leaving Florida.

"I've grown a lot. I probably just worked on every aspect of my game and not just one or two parts, and I just go out there and try to win and play every game like it's my last," Greene said.

Greene broke his right leg at Kansas on Dec. 11 and missed six games, then returned to help the Cajuns win 14 of their last 17.

He planned to chat with some of his former teammates such as David Lee and Adrian Moss and even Florida coach Billy Donovan.

But Greene does have an agenda this time around with the Cajuns.

"We've been put out every time ... hopefully I can go a little bit further this year," he said.

Some time away: A few months ago, Bucknell coach Pat Flannery was enjoying basket-

NCAA notes

ball so little that he needed some time off.

"We got to a point where it just wasn't as fun as it was supposed to be," Flannery said. "I wasn't communicating with my family and my kids. ... I just hit a wall, and when I did, I got the kind of help I needed."

Flannery still attended practices but took a few games off, received counseling for stress and came back feeling rejuvenated.

"Basketball is not who I am, is what I found out," Flannery said. "It's what I do. And that wasn't the case before."

Flannery returned to lead Bucknell to a Patriot League tournament title and a berth in the NCAA's The Bison, seeded 14th in the Syracuse Regional, play third-seeded Kansas in Oklahoma City on Friday night.

The Bison had been on their way to an 11-game winning streak before Flannery stepped away, but players said his leave of absence made things better.

"We definitely noticed a change," guard Kevin Bettencourt said. "It's tough on your team to lose your head coach for any stretch of time. It was something he needed to do and we were here to support him. When he did get back, it did bring the team closer. It made other guys step up and be leaders, and since he has been back, we have jelled better as a team."

Left behind: Guard Billy Edelin, a key cog in Syracuse's run to the national championship two years ago, did not accompany the team to Worcester, Mass., for its first-round game against Vermont on Friday.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim acknowledged that Edelin did not make the trip but would not elaborate on his absence.



Minnesota coach Dan Monson, getting a pat on the head from Aaron Robinson, has weathered a stormy rebuilding process in getting the Gophers back into the NCAA tournament.

Edelin was declared ineligible by the NCAA for the fall semester because he did not meet academic eligibility requirements but was granted an academic waiver petition by the NCAA in October, making him immediately eligible to play.

Although Edelin did not practice before the season and sat out the first five games because of academics, he played in 20 games and has converted more than 50 percent of his shots (34-for-67).

However, he has not played in the Orange's last six games.

Job security: Dan Monson's job security at Minnesota was shaky at best this time last season.

Monson tuned out the critics and rumor mongers and led Minnesota into the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1999. The Gophers play Iowa State on Friday in Charlotte.

"For people to start getting off his back and start giving him a little credit is nice to see," forward Brent Lawson said.

Monson has had an easy time in his six seasons at Minnesota. He took over as the school was reeling from an academic scandal. The scandal cost Minnesota scholarships and a reduction in recruiting priorities that made it difficult for Monson to rebuild.

He's finally done it this year.

Morgan's 21 spark UNLV win

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Ricky Morgan scored 21 points to lead UNLV past Arizona State 89-78 in the first round of the NIT on Thursday night.

Morgan had 15 points in the first half and was 6-for-9 from the field overall, including 3-for-3 from three-point range. He was averaging 3.4 points per game coming in the game.

The Rebels (17-13) advanced to play at South Carolina in the second round Tuesday night.

De Diego had 29 points and 11 rebounds in what may have been his last game for the Sun Devils (18-14). The junior power forward could be an NBA first-round draft pick this year if he decides to skip his senior season.

Diogu was 10-for-16 from the field and 8-for-11 from the free throw line.

Oldenberry Blankson had 19 points for the Rebels and Jerel Blasingame and Michael Umeh each added 11.

UNLV shot 59 percent from the field (40-for-68), including 11-for-22 from three-point range. Arizona State made 45 percent of its shots.

UNLV, which led just about the entire game, built its largest lead of the first half at 30-21. The Sun Devils then went on an 8-0 run, but the Rebels pulled away late in the half and led 48-40 at intermission.

NHL players' association considering two offers from league

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After receiving a choice of two proposals from the NHL, the players' association went home to try to think of something better.

"We're going to do some brainstorming," union senior director Ted Saska said.

The league and the union met for 2½ hours Tuesday in New York, but only 20 minutes was spent together. It was then that the NHL presented two six-year offers: one that linked player costs to league revenues and one that didn't.

A source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on

condition of anonymity that the "de-linked" offer contained a hard cap of \$37.5 million per team, \$5 million lower than commissioner Gary Bettman's final, nonnegotiable proposal made the night before he called off the season.

The removal of linkage was what got the union to agree for the first time to accept a salary

cap, but the sides are nowhere near an agreeable number.

The other offer was more along the lines of what the league wants — a collective bargaining agreement with linkage to ensure "cost certainty" for its 30 clubs. In that proposal, players would be guaranteed 54 percent of league revenues, the source said.

Neither proposal really worked the players' association.

When the players agreed to a salary cap last month, they countered the league's offer of a hard cap at \$42.5 million with a soft cap of \$49 million.

"The proposals they made today were nothing new," Saska told the AP.

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NCAA tournament: Syracuse Regional

Conn lives to fight another day

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Defending champion Connecticut withstood a furious charge by Central Florida to keep alive its hopes of a repeat.

Charlie Villanueva scored 22 points for the Huskies, who opened a 19-point lead and held on to beat Central Florida 77-71 in the Syracuse Regional on Friday despite career highs of 29 points and seven three-pointers by Gary Johnson.

Connecticut (23-7) will play North Carolina State, a No. 10 seed that advanced to the second round with a 75-63 victory over Charlotte in the earlier game. But that could be it for the second-seeded Huskies if they don't snap out of the slump that has stifled them for the past three games.

Central Florida (24-9) had won eight straight games, but the Atlantic Sun champion fell behind by 16 points at the half and by as much as 62-43 with 13:06 left.



Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun voices his displeasure during the defending national champ's NCAA tournament opener vs. Central Florida.

Connecticut led by 15 when the Golden Knights scored nine consecutive points to make it 68-62.

Connecticut led 74-65 with 62 seconds left when Justin Rose made a layup to cut it to seven points. The Huskies called a timeout, and coach Jim Calhoun seemed to struggle to get off the

bench, sitting there alone while his players gathered around to await his instructions.

Central Florida forced consecutive jump balls, getting possession on the second with 54 seconds left. Connecticut didn't allow the Golden Knights a shot for 30 seconds and, although

Kingsley Edwards' layup cut the deficit to five, only 23.2 seconds remained and the Golden Knights were forced to start fouling.

Marcus Williams made three of four free throws down the stretch.

Connecticut won nine of 10 to finish the regular season and the Boston College for the Big East's regular-season title. But since then, the Huskies haven't played well, struggling to get past Georgetown in the conference quarterfinals before falling to Syracuse in a game in which the Huskies trailed by 21 before rallying.

Coming into the first round as a heavy favorite, Connecticut had just one big weakness, and it nearly became a problem.

Williams crumpled to the court with 6:56 left in the first half when he appeared to stretch out his right knee as he took a step.

As the teams cleared the floor for a timeout, Calhoun walked out to midcourt and held out his arms as if to say, "Well, what do I do now?"

As it turned out, Williams was out for only a couple minutes and showed no ill effects.

Florida averts another first-round exit

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Florida certainly knows how to make the first round of the NCAA tournament interesting.

After the Gators blew a 20-point lead, Anthony Roberson converted a three-point play with 42.3 seconds left and Florida held off Ohio 67-62 Friday in the Syracuse Regional.

Florida came into its seventh straight NCAA tournament hoping to forget about first-round losses of the past. The Gators had lost two of their past three first-round games, including last year to Manhattan as a No. 5 seed.

This time, Florida (24-7) hung on after blowing a 55-35 lead with 11:51 left. The Bobcats (21-11), who rallied from 19 points down to the Mid-American Conference title game, went on a 20-run, tying it 60-60 with 2:12 left on Mychal Green's sixth three-pointer.

David Lee threw up an air ball that Roberson caught under the basket and put back up for his only bucket of the second half. Terrell Harbut fouled him, and Roberson added the free throw for a 63-60 lead.

The Bobcats didn't score again until the final seconds and the Gators sealed the victory with four straight free throws.

Green finished with 24 points for the Bobcats.

The Gators play Villanova in the second round on Sunday.

No. 19 Villanova 55, New Mexico 47: At Nashville, Tenn., Kyle Lowry made two sets of free throws in the final 1:38, then came up with a clutch steal to help Villanova hold off New Mexico.

Lowry finished with eight points, while Mervyn Lee led the Wildcats with 15 points. The Wildcats (23-7) got away with one against the Lobos.

After holding 12th-seed New Mexico to just 11 points in the first half and leading by as much as 24, Villanova made just three field goals in the second half. The Lobos (26-7) made a furious rally, pulling within 52-47 with 29 seconds left. Danny Granger led New Mexico with 15 points.



Florida coach Billy Donovan gives his team instructions during the second half of Friday's NCAA tournament opener against Ohio.

No. 2 North Carolina 96, Oakland 68: At Charlotte, N.C., freshman Marvin Williams scored 20 points and Sean May added 19 as the top-seeded Tar Heels romped.

Rashad McCants added 16 points for the Tar Heels (28-4), who shot 73 percent in the first half in taking a 28-point lead and didn't look back. North Carolina advanced to Sunday's second round against Iowa State.

Oakland (13-19) won only nine regular-season games all season. The Michigan school reached the NCAA tournament thanks to an improbable run through the Mid-Continent Conference tournament and then beat Alabama A&M in Tuesday's play-in game.

Cortney Scott finished with 21 points to lead Oakland.

North Carolina State 75, Charlotte 63: At Worcester, Mass., Julius Hodge atoned for the lowest moment of his college career in a big way. Hodge had 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds to lead North Carolina State past Charlotte in the first round of the Syracuse Regional.

The 10th-seeded Wolfpack (20-13) advanced to Sunday's second-round game against Connecticut.

Andrew Brackman had 16 points, Ilan Evrimov and Cameron Bennerman each had 12 and Engin Astur 10 for the Wolfpack, who limited the 49ers (21-8) to 38 percent shooting and shut down their perimeter game in the second half. All of Bennerman's points came after the break and while he was guarding hot-shooting Brendan Plavich.

A year ago in the NCAA tournament, Hodge was in tears after fouling out in a second-round loss to Vanderbilt. And it appeared his career would end on a sour note when the 49ers shot 60 percent in the first half and couldn't miss from beyond the arc in the early going.

North Carolina State, which trailed by 14 points less than five minutes into the game, gradually fought back in the second half.

Iowa State 64, Minnesota 53: At Charlotte, N.C., Iowa State held Minnesota to 33 percent shooting and Curtis Stinson led a balanced attack with 18 points. Rashad Clark and Jared Homan added 14 each for Iowa State (19-11), which got past the first round for the first time since reaching the round of eight in 2000. The next season, seeded second, the Cyclones lost to 15th-seeded Hampton in the tournament opener.

Brent Lawson and Vincent Grier had 14 apiece for the eighth-seeded Gophers (21-11). Minnesota rallied through the second half before Iowa State won on an 8-0 run to take control.

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 15
Oakland, Mich. 71, Alabama A&M 69

SYRACUSE REGIONAL

First Round
Friday, March 18
North Carolina State 75, Charlotte 63
Connecticut 77, Central Florida 71
Iowa State 64, Minnesota 53
North Carolina 96, Oakland, Mich. 68
Florida 67, Ohio 62
Villanova 55, New Mexico 47
Wisconsin (22-9) vs. Northern Iowa (21-10)

Kansas (23-6) vs. Bucknell (22-9)

Second Round

Sunday, March 20
Connecticut vs. North Carolina State
Iowa State vs. Iowa State
Florida vs. Villanova
Kansas/Bucknell vs. Wisconsin/N. Iowa

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
North Carolina/Iowa State vs. Florida-Villanova
Connecticut-North Carolina State vs. Kansas/Bucknell-Wisconsin/Northern Iowa

Sunday, March 27

Championship

CHICAGO REGIONAL

First Round
Thursday, March 17
Wisconsin-Milwaukee 83, Alabama 73
Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65
Oklahoma State 75, Texas 71
Illinois 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 55
Arizona 66, Utah State 54
Alabama-Birmingham 82, LSU 68
Alabama-Birmingham 82, LSU 68
Oklahoma State 65, Southeastern Louisiana 56
Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's, Calif. 56

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Boston College vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Illinois vs. Nevada

Arizona vs. Alabama-Birmingham

Sunday, March 20

Oklahoma State vs. Southern Illinois

Semifinals

Thursday, March 24
Illinois/Nevada vs. Boston College/Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Oklahoma State-Southern Illinois vs. Arizona/Utah

Saturday, March 26

Championship

SOUTH REGIONAL

First Round
Thursday, March 17
Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64
Cincinnati 76, Iowa 64
Oklahoma 66, Niagara 67
Utah 60, Texas El Paso 54
Friday, March 18
Syracuse (22-6) vs. Vermont (24-6)
Michigan 51, Duke 46
Duke (25-5) vs. Delaware State (19-13)
Stanford (38-12) vs. Mississippi 31 (22-10)

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Kentucky vs. Cincinnati
Oklahoma vs. Utah

Sunday, March 20

Syracuse/Vermont vs. Michigan State/Old Dominion

Duke/Delaware State vs. Stanford/Mississippi State

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
Duke/Delaware State-Stanford/Mississippi State vs. Syracuse/Vermont

Michigan State/Old Dominion winner-Kentucky vs. Cincinnati

Oklahoma-Utah

Sunday, March 27

Championship

ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL

First Round
Thursday, March 17
Pacific 79, Pittsburgh 71
Wake Forest 70, Chattanooga 54
West Virginia 83, Creighton 61
Washington 88, Montana 77
Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64
Texas Tech 78, UCLA 66
Friday, March 18
Louisville (24-4) vs. La-Lafayette (20-10)

Georgia Tech (19-11) vs. George Washington (22-7)

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Wake Forest vs. West Virginia
Washington vs. Pacific
Gonzaga vs. Texas Tech

Sunday, March 20

Louisville/Vermont vs. Georgia Tech/George Washington

Semifinals

Thursday, March 24
Washington/Vermont vs. Louisville/Villanova-La-Lafayette-Georgia Tech/George Washington

Wake Forest-West Virginia vs. Gonzaga/Texas Tech

Saturday, March 26

Championship

FINAL FOUR

Saturday, April 2
Chicago's first selection vs. Albuquerque Regional champion

Syracuse Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion

Monday, April 4

Championship

NCAA tournament: Chicago Region

Easy night for Illini

Poor rebounding, shoddy inside play plague Illinois in 12-point win over No. 16-seed Fairleigh Dickinson

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Illinois knows it needs to play much better Saturday to advance to the NCAA regional semifinals.

The top-seeded and top-ranked Illini were beaten on the glass and had to battle through a sub-par first half before a 14-2 run to start the second propelled them to a 67-55 victory over Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday night.

Even an Illinois-partisan crowd in the RCA Dome didn't seem to help.

"The way we played defense, the way they outrebounded us, it was kind of embarrassing and the crowd that wasn't wearing orange was celebrating," said Dee Brown, who led Illinois (3-1) with 19 points. "You expect that. We just were not playing good basketball."

The 16th-seeded Knights (23-10) were before halftime. They outscored the Illini 20-10 inside and came from seven points down to take a brief lead in the first half. Menasha Peterson's buzzer-beating three-pointer to close the half left Illinois with a 32-31 lead. "I think we were 27-point underdogs," Peterson said. "That wasn't happening tonight."

Illinois will face Nevada in the second round, with the winner advancing to the regional semifinals Thursday in Rosemont, Ill. "That was very uncharacteristic of our team," said Rogers Powell Jr., a licensed minister. "Thank God, we got it out of our system now."

Luther Head had 13 points for Illinois, while James Augustine added 15 rebounds and 11 points. FDU won the overall rebounding battle 42-30.

We talked about attitude and being ready to play and breakdowns," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said of his halftime speech. "Sometimes I forget that it's such a long day, maybe there were a little nervous. We were trying to do too much, too fast."

The Illini scored 22 of the first 30 second-half points to take a 52-39 lead with 7:51 to go.

Brown started the run with a three-point play. Then Head dropped a three, Brown kissed one off the top of the glass and got a nice feed from Head for a layup and drained a three-pointer of his own that put the Illini ahead 46-33.

Guard Klaiber scored 24 points and eight rebounds to lead Fairleigh Dickinson, which was making its fourth NCAA appearance in coach Tom Green's 22 seasons. Tamien Trent

scored 11 and 7-footer Andrea Crosariol had three blocked shots and eight rebounds.

In other games Thursday in the Chicago Region:

Nevada 61, Texas 57: At Indianapolis, the Wolf Pack made an improbable comeback in the final 2 minutes, scoring the last eight points of the game in their second straight first-round victory.

The Wolf Pack (25-6), who matched Texas' record for the most wins in the history of the Western Athletic Conference player of the year Nick Fazekas. Kevin Pinkney, who had 15 points, and Fazekas accounted for more than 41 percent of Nevada's points during the season.

With Pinkney in foul trouble and Fazekas missing shots, they needed help. Mo Charlo came off the bench to score 12 points and Ramon Sessions added 11. Fazekas finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds while shooting 3-for-14 against Texas' aggressive zone.

Texas center Jason Klotz and backup guard Kenny Taylor scored the Longhorns in the second half. They combined for 26 of 31 points in the last 20 minutes and helped give Texas (20-11) a 57-53 lead and 2-2-4 to go.

Klotz finished with a career-high 20 points, while Taylor added 12, and Brand Buckman had 14 points and 11 rebounds. Daniel Gibson, the Big 12 freshman of the year, scored just eight points.

No. 9 Arizona 66, Utah State 53: At Boise, Idaho, the Wildcats added a second straight first-round exit by rallying from a slight half-time deficit and dominating the second half.

Utah State (24-8) shot 53 percent from the field this season, but was just 8-for-30 (26.7 percent) in the second half. Arizona kept turning the misses into easy points, getting the ball inside to Channing Frye as he scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half.

Salim Stoudamire fought through asthma and scored 17 points for the Wildcats (28-1). Jaycee Carroll led 14-seed Utah State with 18 points, going 5-for-10 from three-point range.

On Friday:

No. 6 Oklahoma St. 63, SE Louisiana 50: In Oklahoma City, JamesOn Curry made key plays down the stretch to help the second-seeded Cowboys pull away late in the game.

Curry sliced into the lane and found Ivan McFarlin cutting to the basket for a layup, and the



Illinois Jack Ingram (with ball) controls a rebound despite the efforts from Fairleigh Dickinson's Andrea Crosariol on Thursday night. The top-ranked Illini led 32-31 at halftime before pulling away in the second half.

Cowboys expanded their three-point lead in the final minutes.

Curry added a free throw, then found McFarlin for a basket inside to help Oklahoma State take a 49-43 lead. Terrence Crawford emphatically jammed home a miss by John Lucas III, and Curry hit a three-pointer.

McFarlin scored 18 points to lead the Cowboys, a Final Four team last season.

Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's 56: In Oklahoma City, Stetson Hairston broke a late tie with three free throws, then followed with a three-pointer, and Darren Brooks drove for the next two baskets to give the Salukis the push they needed to get past Saint Mary's.

Southern Illinois (27-7) advanced for the first time since 2002, when Hairston and Brooks were freshmen on a club that made the regional semifinals. The Salukis were knocked out by one point in the opening round the past two years.

Next up for seventh-seeded SIU is second-seeded Oklahoma State (25-6).

The Salukis went on early 14-0 run fueled by nine turnovers, including a run of eight straight trips downcourt for the 10th-seeded Gaels (25-9).

Yet Saint Mary's kept chipping away and got within 35-30 early in the second half. After they fell behind by 12, the Gaels went on another run, thanks to reserve Brett Collins. He scored 11 of his team's next 13 points, tying it at 47 with 6:32 left.

Daniel Kickert led Saint Mary's with 16 points.

UAB: Blazers fluster LSU

UAB, FROM BACK PAGE

gers had 21 turnovers — 12 in the first half — that led to 20 points, and had trouble controlling the ball even when UAB backed off, dribbling the ball off their feet out of bounds several times.

Cardell Johnson was particularly effective against Tech Minor, pestering LSU's point guard into seven turnovers, including two in LSU's first three possessions.

"We attacked Minor. He got cut off early in the game and when he didn't get it, kind of, kind of hurt their team," UAB's Demario Edmonds said.

It sure did.

Afraid of having the ball swiped away, the Tigers had trouble getting the shots they wanted, settling for long three-pointers and forcing shots in the lane. LSU shot just 35 percent and was six of 31 on three-pointers.

Brandon Bass, the SEC's player of the year, led LSU with 25 points and 12 rebounds, but was the only player to hit more than half his shots (8-for-10). Darrell Mitchell, LSU's second-leading scorer, had 18 points and 10 rebounds. He had two points on one-of-14 shooting and missed all nine of his attempts from long range.

"They're a scrappy team," Mitchell said. "They made us turn the ball over a little bit and they got easy baskets off of it, and they capitalized on our turnovers."

UAB's defense set up its quick-hit offense, leading to plenty of fast-break chances, spot-up three-pointers and open looks before the Tigers were fully set.

The Blazers took control with a 12-2 run midway through the first half that gave them a 26-15 lead. UAB held LSU to 10-of-31 shooting in the first half and led 41-29 at halftime. It only got worse for the Tigers in the second half.

LSU started off with a turnover and fell behind 59-34 after UAB opened with an 18-5 run in the first 6 minutes. LSU made a late run to cut UAB's lead to 75-66 with just over a minute left.

NCAA tournament: Albuquerque Region

Pau's return boosts slow-starting Wake Forest

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Wake Forest star guard Chris Paul returned from a one-game suspension Thursday and the second-seeded Demon Deacons shook off a horrible first half to defeat Chattanooga 70-54.

Paul scored 20 points — 13 in the second half — and added six rebounds and five assists to pace Wake Forest (27-5), which didn't play like one of the tournament favorites until midway through the second round.

The Demon Deacons struggled with the Mocs (20-11), who threatened to become just the fifth No. 15 seed to win a first-round game.

Paul made sure that didn't hap-

pen, making several big plays in a game-sliding 32-16 run as Wake Forest advanced to play West Virginia.

The sophomore was back on the floor for the first time since March 6, when he punched North Carolina State's Julius Hodge in the groin during the final regular-season game.

"With him, it's like we're one big happy family again," said forward Eric Williams. "It's like the puzzle is complete."

Chris Brown scored 14 points and Alphonso Pugh 13 for Chattanooga, which committed 22 turnovers.

The Mocs led 38-35 when Paul hit a three-pointer to trigger a

Wake Forest run fueled by long-range shots. Trent Strickland hit a three-pointer and Taron Downey made a pair of threes on consecutive trips as the Demon Deacons went up 53-45 with 9:29 to go.

Wake Forest kept pouring it on in its school-record 27th victory.

"Up by 10, I felt pretty good about Chattanooga and our league," Mocs coach John Shulman said. "Getting beat by 16, it's a little disappointing about Chattanooga and the league. Our kids played as hard as we can play."

In other games Thursday in the Albuquerque Region:

W. Virginia 63, Creighton 61: At Cleveland, Tyrone Sall

blocked Nate Funk's three-point attempt, then raced downcourt for a fast-break dunk with 2:9 seconds to go to break a tie.

Kevin Pittsnogle had 17 points for No. 7 seed West Virginia (22-10), which gave coach John Beilein his 500th victory. Funk had 23 points for Creighton (23-11).

No. 10 Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64: At Tucson, Ariz., Adam Morrison scored 27 points to lead third-seeded Gonzaga (26-4).

The loss snapped No. 14 seed Winthrop's 18-game winning streak, the longest in the nation. Gonzaga won its 13th in a row.

Neither team led by more than eight until the final minutes, and it was tied four times in the second half.

J.P. Batista added 21 points for Gonzaga, and Ronny Turiaf had 13 points and 13 rebounds. Torrell Martin scored 22 points and made six three-pointers — both career highs — for the Eagles (27-6), who are 0-5 in the NAAs.

Gonzaga will face Texas Tech in the second round.

No. 24 Texas Tech 78, UCLA 66: At Tucson, Ariz., Ronald Ross scored 28 points and sixth-seeded Texas Tech shot a season-high 62 percent from the field.

Texas Tech (21-10) improved to 2-2 in NCAA tournament games under coach Bob Knight, who is 44-23 in 27 NCAA appearances. It was only Knight's fourth victory in 12 tournament games since 1995.

